Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

USSR Foreign Ministry, MINREX Sign Agreement

FL220324 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Cuban and USSR Foreign Ministries signed a cooperation agreement at Havana's MINREX [Ministry of Foreign Relations] offices this afternoon. USSR deputy foreign minister Viktor Komplektov and Jose Raul Viera, acting Cuban foreign minister, signed the document which covers all areas of cooperation between the two ministries.

The protocol confirms the political line of the two countries in the international arena and the strengthening of unity among socialist countries. It also promotes the [words indistinct] peaceful coexistence in the relations among states with different social regimes.

The Cuban and Soviet representatives attending the cooperation agreement signing ceremony said this event ratifies the consolidation of the fraternal friendship between the lands of Lenin and Marti. They also noted that cooperation between Cuba and the USSR, which is already 25-years-old, is irrefutable evidence of the determination of the two governments in their struggle for development and peace.

USSR Deputy Chairman Visits Electronic Plant

FL220356 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of a Cuban-USSR joint committee, has visited the Ernesto "Che" Guevara electronic plant located near Pinar del Rio. The high-ranking Soviet official toured the industrial plant, which was built by the revolution, while he chatted with workers and was briefed on the development plans for the plant. Kamentsev learned that our country will continue to increase exports from this industry and thus greatly contribute to the reduction in imports from the capitalist world.

The Ernesto "Che" Guevara is increasing its production of video terminals, electronic keyboards for minicomputers, and electronic sensors, among others. The new industry's aim is to socialize technological equipment faster, depend less and less on capitalist countries, and have a steadier flow of raw material for its production. Higher quality will be achieved in this plant within 3 years. USSR cooperation, exemplified by Comrade Kamentsev's visit, will help to obtain this.

Central Committee members Jose Lopez Moreno, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Fidel Ramos Perera, first secretary of the PCC in Pinar del Rio, accompanied the Soviet leader on his visit to the electronics plant.

Discusses Cooperation

FL221544 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has headed the Cuban delegation to the official talks on the progress of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and Cuba. Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, headed the Soviet delegation.

The delegations analyzed the progress of the agreements reached at the last session of the Cuba-USSR Joint Intergovernmental Committee and they agreed that these accords have fundamentally been fulfilled.

They also discussed bilateral economic relations during the meeting and the introduction of new methods to increase efficiency.

Chairman Kamentsev Departs

FL230335 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0317 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has described Vladimir Kamentsev's stay in Cuba as very fruitful. The progress of economic and scientific-technical cooperation between Cuba and the USSR was discussed during his visit. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, bid farewell to the deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers who returned to his country today. The member of the PCC Politburo said the planned objectives were accomplished during the visit, which resulted in the strengthening of relations between the fatherlands of Lenin and Marti. Shortly before the high-ranking Soviet official left, they signed the minutes of the intergovernmental committee. This document includes cooperation agreements until the year 2000.

Jose Naranjo Heads Delegation to Beijing

For Chinese reportage on the visit to China by a Cuban Government delegation led by Jose A. Naranjo, minister without portfolio and chief of Fidel Castro's Coordination and Support Staff, including his visit with Acting Chinese Premier Li Peng, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 22 January issue of the China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Malmierca Meets With Brazilian Candidate

FL221838 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca yesterday met in Rio de Janeiro with presidential candidate Lionel Brizola and was the guest of honor of Governor Moreira Franco.

It was an interesting and warm meeting between two friends who did not know each other personally, Malmierca said.

They exchanged views on Latin American affairs during the meeting.

Comments on Brazilian Visit

FL222134 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Report by unidentified correspondent in Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] Hello, Radio Rebelde friends. I am speaking to you from Rio de Janeiro. We have the honor of having Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca with us. He is on a tour of Latin America and is now in Rio de Janeiro. This is a Cuban foreign minister's first visit in 20 years to Brazil. What is your assessment of the visit and of the prospects opening up, please?

[Malmierca] For many years we did not have the opportunity to exchange visits with high ranking Brazilian Government officials. We received Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre last year in Cuba; now we have reciprocated.

We are very pleased with our visit's results. We had the privilege of meeting with President Sarney, to whom we conveyed very fraternal greetings from President Fidel Castro. These he warmly returned. We have examined the prospects for more extensive relations with Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre and his aides, and with other Brazilian ministers. We feel these prospects are very favorable. In the first place, cooperation ties have already begun to bear favorable fruit. We trust this visit will be a modest contribution to this process. We feel that possibilities exist for the growth of our relations in all fields: cultural, sports, education, economy, and trade.

The possibility of building ships for our merchant fleet in the state's shipyards in Rio was raised again. This project is being analyzed in our country.

That is why we are very pleased with the results. We have been received with real affection everywhere and have been told of the sympathy for our revolution. We trust that relations between Cuba and Brazil will prosper in the future for our mutual benefit and as a positive step on the road toward regional integration.

Meets With Sao Paulo Leaders

FL231255 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca met yesterday with the main political and business leaders of Sao Paulo. He arrived in this city on the 4th day of his visit to Brazil.

Malmierca met with the governor of Sao Paulo, Orestes Quercia, who is considered to be one of the primary presidential candidates in Brazil.

The Cuban official will conclude his visit to Brazil tomorrow and will travel to Uruguay.

Discusses Latin American Tour

FL231900 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Interview with Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca by Brazilian journalist (Marta Valverde); date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [(Valverde) in Spanish] Comrade minister, you have said a lot about the exchange of invitations between Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Cuban President Fidel Castro. What can you tell us about this, please?

[Malmierca] President Castro has been invited to visit Brazil and President Sarney has also received an invitation to visit our country.

We see this as a sign of the mutual willingness to make this meeting of the two presidents come about so that it may, in turn, promote [words indistinct] the process we previously mentioned.

It has not yet been determined when the meeting will take place or if it will be held in Cuba or Brazil. However, we are confident that the meeting will take place soon. I repeat, it will be a historic contribution to the process of rapprochement between the countries in our region.

[(Valverde)] (?One more question.) In reference to your upcoming visit to Uruguay after leaving Brazil, is there some aspect on which you wish to comment?

[Malmierca] We are visiting several states in the region. We began the visit by staying a few days in Panama where we met with government leaders, including President Delvalle, General Noriega, Foreign Minister Abadia, and other Panamanian Government leaders.

We are now finishing our Brazilian visit and later we will travel to Uruguay, Argentina, and, finally, Mexico. In each of these cases, we are reciprocating the visits made to our country by important delegations from each nation.

We have visited Uruguay before but never as foreign minister. We have fond memories of that visit and are confident this meeting will allow us to exchange views on the principle aspects of the international situation, especially in Latin America.

Fidel Castro Presides at MININT Meeting

FL231331 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has presided over an Interior Ministry working meeting in which they examined the fulfillment of the organization's principle tasks in 1987. They also drafted its 1988 guidelines

In analyzing the work of the National Revolutionary Police [PNR] it was confirmed that some of the most dangerous criminal (?activities) decreased in 1987. They agreed to continue increasing the operations and efficiency of the PNR.

The participants at the meeting also examined the operations of the penitentiary system and reviewed the cadre policy and organizational improvement of the institution, as well as other matters.

Division General Jose Abrahantes Fernandez, interior minister, noted the usefulness of this analysis and the guidelines that resulted from this meeting.

The event was closed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

Government Confirms 4 Executed in 1987

PA230006 Paris AFP in Spanish 1927 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Havana, 19 Jan (AFP)—Four persons were executed in Cuba in 1987—three of them in Havana and one in Camaguey Province, in the central eastern part of the country—official sources have told AFP. This information had been previously reported by human rights activists, but there had not been any official confirmation.

Cuban Justice Minister Juan Escalona told newsmen last December that there had been no capital punishment in his country in 1987, but that four persons were executed in 1986.

According to human rights activists, the people executed in 1987 were: Efrain Montero Quezada for sabotage in Camaguey; and Blas Oscar Romero Betancourt, Enrique Rosales Garcia, and Jorge Sardinas Carrera for murder in Havana.

The new penal code, which took effect this year, states that death sentences are to be carried out for certain crimes against state security and certain kinds of murder and rape.

Capital punishment in Cuba, which the penal code stipulates is of a "special nature," is not applied to persons under 20 or pregnant women. Execution is by firing squad.

Haiti

Leslie Manigat Officially Elected President

PA242008 Paris AFP in Spanish 1948 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Jan (AFP)—Leslie Manigat was elected president of Haiti with 50.29 percent of the vote in the 17 January elections, it was officially announced today.

The Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) published today the final results of the elections.

Called:'Man of the Moment'

PA242320 Paris AFP in Spanish 2000 GMT 24 Jan 88

[By Edouard Pons]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Jan (AFP)—Haitian President-elect Leslie Manigat says he is "the man of the moment" to overcome the country's crisis and achieve national reconciliation.

In an interview with AFP's special correspondent, Manigat, who will assume office on 7 February, said he is convinced the Army "wants to return to the barracks." He added that he trusts international economic aid will be resumed soon.

Winner of an election characterized by a large voter boycott and many irregularities, and facing the hostility of almost all the political groups, the Catholic and Protestant Churches, the unions, and the popular organizations, Manigat claimed he is a legitimate president issuing a call to the "true country" that "does not live by the rhythm of disturbances and disorders" of the capital.

According to Manigat, the Haitian people know that what they chose "is the only acceptable solution right now, unless they want the military to continue holding power or conditions to worsen." The Haitian people, he added, know that "I am the man of the moment." He also announced that he will begin "a great effort for national reconciliation," but he admitted it "will not be easy to achieve."

Manigat rejected the view that Sunday's elections were a military "farce" that dooms him to play the role of a "puppet" president. He said: "I sincerely believe the military is tired of the burden of holding political power and that it wants to return to the barracks to become a modern, professional force." What has happened, Manigat said, is that 2 years have passed with the Army in power, and "it has acquired certain habits. It is therefore normal to have a period of adjustment as the Army relinquishes power." It is a period that must include "a dialogue and a climate of peace," Manigat said.

The basic freedoms will be respected, he added, but Haiti needs "to use these freedoms," and "certain practices" must be corrected. "We will not go against freedom, but we want the democratic process to be respected," he said.

He also said he trusts U.S. and international aid will be resumed soon. This aid was suspended following the killings during the first attempted elections on 29 November. "In the times of the (Duvalier) dictatorship we had a brutal, corrupt, and incompetent government that was insensitive to the people's needs. However, it received generous aid until the end," he said, adding: "We will now have a democratic, competent, and honest government to help the masses. Will the aid granted to the other government be denied to this one?"

Regarding the 19 November massacres, Manigat said that he trusts the Investigating Commission appointed by the National Government Council (CNG) and refused to believe that the Army had a share of responsibility in it "as long as I do not have proof of it."

Regarding the election of certain deputies who had ties with the dictatorship, he said they will have to adapt to the "policy of changes" he will start. However, he also deplored that he does not have a majority in the parliament, saying: "Haiti is a country where the person who sets the tone counts." In the Duvalier times, "they (the elected deputies) followed the line of the administration they represented," he said. "Now that another government will set the tone, they will see if they have the ability to adapt," Manigat added. "We will introduce a policy of changes, and this will result in an activity which will win over those disappointed by Duvalierism," he said.

The future president plans to start a "diplomatic offensive" that will take the Third World more into consideration and that will aim to "restore the nation's dignity" and to establish "friendly relations between the church and the state based on the latter's preeminence."

Despite reaching power "under the most adverse conditions," Manigat concluded the interview trustingly, remarking: "These people wish to see their hopes fulfilled through me. This includes those who opposed me. They tell one another that I am a competent man, a man of good faith, and an honest man who cares about the masses. They expect me to do something positive."

Manigat Profile

PA242206 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 24 Jan (AFP)—The Haitian president-elect, 57-year-old Leslie Manigat, is a university graduate from the black bourgeoisie of northern Haiti. When the Duvaliers were in power, he lived in exile for 23 years.

Manigat studied international relations in Paris. He returned here in 1953, and from 1957 to 1960 he was a university professor and director of the Haitian Foreign Ministry Political Affairs Office.

In 1960 he broke with Francois Duvalier, who had been in power since 1957 and who jailed Manigat for 2 months in 1961. In 1963 Manigat and his family sought refuge in the Argentine Embassy in Port-au-Prince, from where he left for exile to become an active and firm opponent of the Duvaliers.

He spent 10 years of his exile in France and later moved to Venezuela (1978-86), where he was a professor in Caracas' Simon Bolivar University.

In 1979, along with other exiles, he founded the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats (RDNP-CENTRIST), which benefited from the support of international Social and Christian Democratic groups.

In February 1986, following the fall of the dictatorship, Manigat returned to Haiti, and his party picked him as its presidential candidate. Following the suspension of the November elections, Manigat decided to participate in the 17 January elections, which have been characterized by the opposition as dishonest. Manigat has rejected the charge. He has said that there were inevitable irregularities but that the voting process was honest and that the votes cast have not been altered.

Opposition Leader Louis Dejoie Released

FL221930 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1855 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Mr Louis Dejoie II was released this afternoon after being detained for approximately 48 hours. The PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party] leader has left the national penitentiary, where he had been in custody since the day before yesterday. [passage omitted]

Shortly before Dejoie's release, soldiers in olive green used tear gas on a crowd estimated at some 1,000 persons gathered in front of the prison. A soldier hit a young man on the shoulder with a rifle butt as the soldiers tried to disperse the crowd.

Louis Dejoie II was finally released this afternoon shortly after 1300.

Also, like Louis Dejoie, Dr Louis Roy was detained at the airport at approximately 1230 today. He is still under detention in the diplomatic waiting room at the airport.

We will keep you informed.

Louis Roy Arrested Upon Arrival at Airport

FL221847 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] It is 1252. Our newscast is over. As (Ketly) said, before the repeat of the headlines—and we can include it in the headlines, because it is one of the major events for today—Dr Louis Roy, a member of the Committee for the Defense of the Constitution was arrested today at the Port-au-Prince international airport.

[(Ketly)] The report is confirmed. Dr Louis Roy has been arrested, just as PAIN [National Agricultural and Industrial Party] leader Louis Dejoie was.

[Jacques] He was arrested upon deplaning this morning.

[(Ketly)] And taken where, Jacques?

[Jacques] We have no information at this point as to where he was taken; but he will probably be taken to the Criminal Investigations Department.

[(Ketly)] Nor as to the reasons for his arrest?

[Jacques] Nor as to the reasons for his arrest, but we can guess they will be the same as those given by the authorities for arresting the leader of PAIN.

[(Ketly)] Thank you. It is 1253.

Leaves Airport; Not Arrested

FL222059 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Telephone interview with Dr Louis Roy, member of the Committee for the Defense of the Constitution, on 22 January—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Dr Roy] They were extremely courteous. At one point, he told me he was leaving to see about the police. I said: I would like you to tell me, Lieutenant, if I am under arrest. If I am under arrest, I would like to see the warrant because I assume you must have an arrest warrant. And I will not answer any questions without my lawyer's presence because that's what the Constitution stipulates.

He said: No, no, no, no, Dr Roy. You are not under arrest at all. This is just a formality. We were asked to notify the police when you arrived. The police are probably going to come out and ask you some questions.

He left and never came back. I sat and waited for 2 hours. My people were waiting for me outside. Finally, he came with a captain, whose name I don't know. He, too, was very courteous. He said: Dr Roy, come with me please. So I took my bag and followed him. He took me through customs. As I was going through, some 12 police in civilian clothing appeared. They searched my baggage. They frisked me to see if I was carrying a weapon, I suppose. They didn't say why. They asked me my name, address, and phone number. Then they said: You're free, Doctor. Go on in. That's all I can tell you. So, I am home now. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Do you have to show up somewhere later?

[Roy] No, no. They just let me go and my wife took me home.

[Reporter] Are you still determined to continue the struggle after what happened?

[Roy] But of course! I don't see why I should desist. If you start something you should finish it. [passage omitted]

Candidates Complain of Fraud at BED/Northwest

FL222126 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Excerpts] There was a big fuss yesterday morning at the Departmental Electoral Office [BED] for the Northwest Department . Our correspondent was at the scene and will give us some details.

Today, Wednesday, 20 January 1988, some 3 days after the elections in Haiti, the BED/Northwest had turned into a veritable marketplace, with many candidates running in and out accompanied by the justice of the peace. They were complaining about fraud they claim was committed against them. [passage omitted]

This morning, there were so many arguments at the BED/Northwest between candidates and the people in charge of the BED, that not even journalists were allowed to enter to record and obtain information at first.

Some candidates told us that fraud took place mostly at the electoral office. Their representatives at the BED reported to them the balloting results after the elections. When they arrived at the BED, they found the figures had been inflated for certain candidates and reduced for others. [passage omitted]

Many observers say that if elections are not annulled in the Department of the Northwest, results of the 17 January elections will lead to much bloodshed in the northwest.

This is Jean Wilson, Radio Soleil, Port-de-Paix.

Returns Show De Ronceray Ahead

FL221921 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Report by correspondent for the Northwest (Theodore Megalos Axius)]

[Text] Today we received the final returns from the Department of the Northwest for the 17 January elections, which were held to choose a president, three senators, a deputy, and a communal magistrate coalition.

For president: Prof Hubert de Ronceray received 19,575 votes; Prof Leslie Manigat, 10,442 votes; Jean L. Theagene, (?10,977) votes; Attorney Gregoire Eugene, 2,988 votes; agronomist Gerard Philippe Auguste, 2,670 votes; Hugo Noel, 467 votes; Attorney Alphonse Lahens, 178 votes; Michel Lamartiniere Honorat, 116 votes; Eng Arnold Jean [as heard], 23 votes; Edouard Francisque, 12 votes; Dieuveuil Joseph, 8 votes; Jacques C. Verret [as heard], 7 votes; Etienne Raphael Francois, 7 votes; and agronomist Hector Estime, (?2 votes).

For senator: Eng Emmanuel D. Clersaint received 15,809 votes; Attorney (Javier St Louis), 13,596 votes; Attorney (Garcon Alexis), received (?10,163) votes; Attorney Nelson Louis, 4,499 votes.

For deputy, electoral district of Port-de-Paix: Josue Lafrance received 7,608 votes; Attorney (Jerome Mazare), 5,931 votes; and Denis St-Fort, 4,832.

For the electoral district of Saint Louis du Nord: (Elio Bernard) won 3,381 votes; Louis Guillaume, 2,582 votes; Alexis Guerrier, 2,018 votes; and (Sidney Joseph), 1,287 votes.

For the electoral district of Jean-Rabel: Jean Michel Richardson received 6,796 votes; Yvon Desir received 6,742 votes.

For the electoral district of Mole Saint Nicolas: (Serge Eclair) received 7,614 votes and Obriand Nemorin received 4,653 votes.

As regards the communal magistrate coalitions, for the town of Port-de Paix, the Ernst Calim coalition received 4,273 votes and the Emmanuel Vincent coalition 4,071 votes.

For the commune of Saint Louis du Nord: The (Deus Elize) coalition—the only slate—received 6,005 votes.

For the commune of Anse a Foleurs: The Theojuste Gaspard coalition received 2,781 votes and the Gerard Jean-Pierre coalition 1,588 votes.

For the commune of Chansolme: The Georges Monprevil coalition—the only one—received 1,943 votes.

For the commune of Bombardopolis: The Pierre Fleurime coalition won 3,232 votes and the Sonnier Pierre coalition 1,677 votes.

For the commune of Mole Saint Nicolas: The Alexandre Bien-Aime coalition received 3,847 votes and the Nicolas P. Laveaux coalition 121.

For the commune of Bassin Bleu: the Louissaint Cauvin coalition received 5,081 votes and the Stephen St-Phort coalition 1,386 votes

For the commune of Baie de Henne: The Heribert Thelus coalition had 2,396 votes and the (Abner Etienne) coalition 2,169.

For the commune of Jean-Rabel: The Eric Aristide coalition—the only coalition—received 6,060 votes.

Lastly, for the commune of La Tortue: The Joachin Paul coalition—the only coalition—received 522 votes.

Nicaragua

Reagan $50 Million Contra Aid Request Noted

PA221831 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The White House today continued its campaign in favor of the mercenary war against Nicaragua, and it undertook a surprising tactical swing. White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater announced: President Ronald Reagan will request a little less than $50 million for nonlethal aid.

Until yesterday, there was talk of a figure of $270 million. However, the opposition expressed by a majority of congressmen to resumed funds given by Reagan to the mercenaries made the White House reduce its request substantially.

The U.S. Government defines nonlethal aid as helicopters, provisions, food, transportation, and other needed items that allow the war against Nicaragua to continue.

The request will be presented next Tuesday, 1 day after Reagan's address to the nation before the joint session of Congress.

The first favorable reaction came from Jim Wright himself, leader of the Democrats. He thought the announcement made by the White House spokesman was reasonable. However, Wright's opinion was not shared by a group of 40 mayors. During a meeting in Washington, they asked Congress to reject Reagan's request and to give peace a chance in Central America.

[Begin recording of unidentified person in English] [Words indistinct] $1 billion for the war [word indistinct]. [end recording]

This mayor said that so far the U.S. Government has spent more than $1 billion to wage against Nicaragua. To finance the war, Reagan has cut social programs from the U.S. budget, the mayor of Burlington declared.

Ortega To Call C.A. Summit If Aid Approved

PA250200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Jan 88

[By Marisol Marin]

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega today stated that if the U.S. Congress approves additional funds for the contras, he will immediately call a summit of his Central American counterparts to discuss what to do. During an interview, Ortega told EFE that he would agree to the anti-Sandinist forces receiving through the Red Cross only humanitarian aid, and only while the cease-fire is being negotiated. He noted: "If the U.S. Government approves humanitarian aid to be delivered by the Red Cross, we would agree to that. However, what they term nonlethal aid—uniforms, boots, and aircraft—helps to continue the war. We view that type of aid as a blow to the efforts being made for peace and democracy in Central America."

Ortega said he fears there will be no third round of talks for a cease-fire on 28 and 29 January in San Jose "because, objectively speaking, such talks would not help Reagan." The Sandinist leader explained that the U.S. President is not interested in those talks at a time when he is going to ask the Congress for more contra aid. Ortega commented: "The U.S. Government may ask the Nicaraguan Government to hold political negotiations with the contras and the domestic opposition in a tripartite meeting. This is unacceptable, because such negotations are not envisaged by the Esquipulas agreement." He said his government will only talk with those who lay down their arms and join the civilian opposition. Ortega warned that any other demand "could make the San Jose meeting fail."

The president repeatedly insisted that this is a "crucial moment" for Central America due to the imminent 4 February vote by the U.S. Congress on new funds for the contras. He flatly denied there are any differences among the nine members of the FSLN National Directorate on complying with the Esquipulas agreement. Ortega noted that the decision to arrest the opposition leaders who met with the contras in Guatemala was unanimous.

Daniel Ortega said Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo confirmed to him that the meeting did take place, and that as soon as he was informed of it, he expelled all those involved from the country. As for reports that Minister of Interior Tomas Borge caught him off guard by having those persons arrested while Ortega was at the San Jose summit, the Sandinist leader replied: "I knew about and agreed with the decision to arrest them, because they cannot act with impunity."

Twelve leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board—an openly anti-Sandinist conservative coalition—were arrested and questioned for several hours as they returned to Nicaragua from Guatemala.

Ortega, who will be traveling to Spain on Tuesday for an official working visit, said the government of Felipe Gonzalez can contribute to strengthening the Central American peace process by helping the presidents "face and overcome U.S. pressure." "It is obvious," he pointed out, "that Spain has excellent relations with all the Central American governments and enjoys their respect. This makes Spain the country that could exert the greatest influence in favor of the peace process and to prevent new funds for the contras."

Ortega categorically denied reports linking his upcoming visit to Madrid with that of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He affirmed that his trip is the result of a "sovereign decision, and it is independent of the meeting between the Spanish and Soviet foreign ministers." The president announced he will invite King

Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to visit Nicaragua, and noted: "It is very important that Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez visits Central America soon."

Ortega said one of the goals of his visit is to secure the Spanish Government's support for creating mechanisms to verify compliance with the Esquipulas agreement.

At the San Jose meeting, the five Central American presidents stated that the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission—which includes representatives of the Contadora and Support Groups and of the UN and OAS secretaries general—had completed its task. This commission prepared a report on compliance by the Central American states, but the document resulted in strong disagreements since Honduras and El Salvador viewed it as "biased" in Nicaragua's favor. Now, in place of this commission, the Central American foreign ministers [words indistinct] but can resort to "acknowledged impartial" states or organizations inside and outside the region that wish to cooperate.

Ortega said: "Nicaragua believes Spain could participate in this yet-to-be created verification mechanism, and that through Spain, other European countries could also participate." The Nicaraguan Government also wants the Spanish Government to form part of another commission that would supervise the guarantees the contras would receive in Nicaragua once there is a cease-fire and they lay down their arms and accept the amnesty. Ortega stated this commission would function only in Nicaragua. He said efforts are being made so that representatives of the Socialist International, the Christian Democratic International, and the Liberal International, as well as of the U.S. Democratic and Republican Parties and of the Contadora and Support Groups, can additionally be part of this commission. The Nicaraguan president indicated: "All these representatives would be guarantors of the process of reincorporating the contras into civilian life."

Ortega stated: "The best thing we can do to stop accusing each other of giving support to rebel forces (the FMLN) or to irregular groups (the contras) is to create, as soon as possible, these mechanisms, and to have immediate on-site inspections."

Ramirez: Aid 'Stab in Back'

PA222222 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jan (AFP)—If the U.S. Congress approves new funds for the anti-Sandinist rebels, this would be a "stab in the back" for the Central American peace process, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado declared today.

In an interview with AFP in this capital, Ramirez insisted that new U.S. aid to the contras "would only contribute to toppling the Central American peace process."

"It is completely unconscionable that while the Central American presidents talk of peace, the White House talks of war," the Nicaraguan vice president stated. He returned to Managua today after participating in a meeting here with his colleagues from Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced this week that on 26 January, he will request new funds—estimated to be $270 million—for "the freedom-fighters," as he calls the contras.

For Reagan, the prospects of securing peace in Central America depend on "continued pressure" being exerted on the Sandinist government.

Ramirez repudiated this view by stating that "if this war becomes long-term—with new funds and new resources—we do not see how a cease-fire in Nicaragua can be effectively negotiated."

The vice president noted that a new influx of economic aid to the contras would prolong the war in this nation.

"I trust that the U.S. Congress will not do this. I trust in the prudence of the U.S. Congress and of many of its representatives; but should it (the approval of new aid) happen, this would be a stab in the back to Esquipulas, and a stab in the back to the peace process signed by the Central American presidents," he stated.

"President Reagan has only 1 year left (in office), and his impetus is fading. If Congress does not give its approval to this policy of supporting the counterrevolution, it [Reagan's impetus] will continue to decline, and that is when opportunities for peace in Central America will begin to flourish with renewed vigor," he said.

The Nicaraguan vice president referred to the direct negotiations with the contras, scheduled for 28 and 29 January in San Jose, Costa Rica, by reiterating that "there will not be a political dialogue."

"The Esquipulas agreements stipulate it is necessary to attain a cease-fire, and that is what we are doing," he added.

For the Nicaraguan vice president, the results of the Esquipulas III meeting, held on the 15th and 16th, "are a new demonstration of Central American independence and of the presidents' desire for peace."

"I believe that one of the broad lessons of this process is that the Central American countries are lifting the veil in our relations with the United States," he concluded.

Arce Martyrs Day Speech Views Peace Talks

PA231411 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2322 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce at rally commemorating the 1967 martyrs from the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...to begin warming up motors. We did not want to make a symbol out of 22 January. We did not want to make—but in fact did make—a special effort to show the strength of the revolution's popular support. We said that we would invite 22,000 people. Of course, in light of our party's democracy, we told our members that they were not prohibited from doubling or tripling that number. So, the regional committee will not be punished for tripling the number of participants in this commemorative event. [applause]

With the speeches by our friends among the American people and the fraternal presence of our friend Victorino Venegas, mayor of San Jose, Costa Rica, and six San Jose councilmen, this event represents an expression of fraternity and peace among peoples. [applause]

Thirty years of Somoza rule are more than enough; enough of Somoza; long live Sandino; death to Somoza; Sandino lives within the youth; Catholics: Read the message of the Second Vatican Council before voting. These slogans of unquestionably popular content were reproduced by Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal's LA PRENSA, which was different from the current one, amid other electoral slogans of the so-called National Opposition Union, UNO, all of which were intended to call the Nicaraguan people to the fateful rally on 22 January 21 years ago.

Even though not all of us felt the same degree of confidence due to the bourgeois nature of the UNO leadership and its presidential candidate, Fernando Aguero, thousands of workers, peasants, and students attended this event with an objective, i.e., to express the people's combative spirit against the Somozas' pro-imperialist military dictatorship, which threatened to prolong its dynastic nature by making a third Somoza president—the last Marine, Anastasio Somoza Debayle. [He was] the last Marine, with whom Somozism and imperialist domination in Nicaragua sank forever and irreversibly on 19 July 1979. [applause]

The FSLN had condemned the electoral farce in which the bourgeois parties were becoming accomplices, and its militants were on the alert and keeping a watchful eye on these developments. They could do no less. Aguero and his underlings had spread the notion that the mass gathering on that 22 January would be transformed into armed resistance, into an insurrectional demonstration to overthrow the Somozas. The popular slogans I quoted and this alleged plan had stirred the people. An armed confrontation would logically not be to the benefit of the popular masses.

However, consistent with its principles, the FSLN had to stand beside the people at those difficult times. For that reason, many of its militants were also there, ready for combat.

No one knew the real plan of the so-called top leader, as they called Aguero. Consistent with his line of reasoning, Aguero had planned to massively sacrifice the people, to expose them to genocide and thus promote a U.S. intervention to remove the Somozists from power and make him president. That is what he discussed with his closest collaborators and what he had already discussed with Mr Brown, the U.S. ambassador at that time.

Aguero and his closest collaborators were inspired by the still-fresh tragedy of the Dominican Republic, which 2 years earlier, in 1965, had been invaded by the United States to put is most loyal servants in power. His Machiavellian plan, unfortunately, was a reality. The criminal act was carried out. Thousands of Nicaraguans were murdered. Aguero, however, did not attain his ambitious objectives. U.S. imperialism did not care to change the Somozas; it was satisfied with its local version of the Marines. And the awaited U.S. intervention, of course, did not occur. What Mr Brown did was to save and strengthen the Somozist dictatorship, and establish negotiations to pardon Aguero.

The histrionic attempt by Aguero and the bourgoise opposition left them indebted to the dictatorship. And they paid the debt. In order to do this, the bourgoise opposition sold itself, thus legitimizing the elections of the third Somoza. And from that time until our own, while half concealing its appearances, the dictatorship and its opposition assumed the philosophy of the three musketeers: all for one and one for all.

Aguero received his reward 5 years later. He became one of the members of the triumvirate and was given some cars with horns [pitonetas] to drive through the streets of Managua.

As a result of that criminal maneuver, Somozism continued to rule here with Yankee support. They were here committing robberies, crimes, and torture; they denied education, health, and housing to the people. They seized land from the peasants and protected imperialist domination over Central America through the U.S. Government until the Nicaraguan people, with the FSLN in the vanguard, on 19 July 1979 irreversibly eliminated Somozism forever. Listen closely: ir-re-ver-si-bly. [Arce emphasizes previous word] [applause]

Even with everything at its command, the United States was no longer able to keep Somoza in power. However, since that cruel 22 January, and during the 12 more years

we had to endure the dictatorship, they sowed the seeds they are still harvesting: They united Somozism with its so-called concerted opposition. Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal called it Cupiacumi—which means a single heart in Miskito—then, and in fact, since then, they would still be Cupiacumi.

Imperialism reaped such a good harvest that even 2 days before the triumph of the the revolution, all these so-called opposition leaders left for Caracas, Venezuela in an attempt to avert the revolutionary triumph and save Somozism. On 17 July, they were in Caracas looking for ways to save Somozism when the Somozas of Nicaragua were dying as a result of the people's advance.

Why were they trying to save Somozism? They were trying to save it because in the end, they were not concerned for the man; they called him the man. They were and continue to be interested in perpetuating the exploitation of man by man in Nicaragua. [applause]

Why are we recalling this brief historical item? Simply because this is necessary to truly render homage to the people, to the people's innocent martyrs that were killed on 22 January, and also so that the Sandino's cubs who today defend the people's cause—for which many people were killed on that 22 January, when many of Sandino's cubs had not even been born—can nurture their fighting spirit with these historical teachings. This recollection could allow us to better understand why Reagan has been able to reap, like someone harvesting crops from what has been sown, the formation of a mercenary force to attack and kill Nicaraguan people with the complicity, and in many cases, with the applause, of those who call themselves adversaries of the Sandinist people's revolution. Day by day, these kinds of people are increasingly closing their ranks against our revolution.

This is logical. Most opposition leaders and the majority of those opposing the revolution are the same accomplices of the Somozism, which is inspired by the Yankee aggression, and the threat of invasion. We say the majority because it is only fair to admit that at that time, some leaders and activists opposing Somoza were already supporting the people's cause. They participated in the 22 January battle to protect and defend the people with guns, rifles, and old rifles. They fought with Aguero when he shamelessly negotiated the surrender of the groups that had sought refuge or were entrenched in the resistance, which lasted 3 days. He intended to turn these people over to the Somozist Guards and to the ANROC [expansion unknown] class.

At least some of them began to understand and to repudiate the betrayal. Those few were precisely the only ones who were jailed, tortured, and sentenced to 2 years in jail by Somozism. Later on, these people found or reaffirmed—because some of them already had—the historical truth that the only way to be with the people is by being in the ranks of the FSLN. Today, we are proud to have them as an example of anti-Somozist uprightness. [applause] [announcer interrupts for brief station identification]

However, those who were not affected, those who never had to firmly face the dictatorship, are now termed the opposition to our revolution. These people are supported by the U.S. aggression, and they are enjoying the freedom they denied to the people and which the revolution is providing. These people are trying to appear as courageous adversaries. However, they cannot conceal their role as puppets of the Reagan policy in a new version of the same old operetta of the past. I believe it would be advisable to review the facts, to recognize some of the scenes and actors of the tragicomic history of Somozism that were brought back to life a few days ago. I told you Aguero and his supporters received their inspiration for the 22 January plan from the Yankee intervention in the Dominican Republic. Well, you should know that it just so happens that Colonel Enrique Bermudez, apparently the military chief of the counterrevolution, was precisely the chief of the Somozist Guard forces sent to support the U.S. Marines in the invasion of the Dominican Republic.

Aguero wanted an intervention on 22 January 1967. He [Bermudez] now leads the counterrevolution group to negotiate the cease-fire. His guidance—the CIA's directions—are very clear: to make the peace agreements fail, to make the cease-fire possibilities fail. Why? So the United States, so Reagan can justify his war, and if possible, justify the intervention.

In 1978, the gringos sent Admiral Juan Emilio Jimenez, from the Dominican Republic, to begin negotiations between the dictatorship and the opposition. These negotiations were intended to save the dictatorship, to save Somozism. Naturally, he came as an OAS representative. Now he is the contras' technical adviser for the cease-fire talks.

Here, inside the country, among our staunchest civic opponents we can mention the PLI's [Independent Liberal Party] Juan Manuel Gutierrez. He arrived in Washington last year to request funds for the contras and to say that if the U.S. does not intervene, the Sandinists will never relinquish power. Eduardo Rivas Gasteazoro was also one of them, as well as Fernando Zelaya Rojas of the Conservative Party. They were members of the directorate of the National Opposition Unity [Union Nacional Opositora] on that 22 January. Of course, none of them was arrested. They were not tortured, and they were not sentenced to serve 2 years in jail for the incidents. They instead received pardons and love.

However, by coincidence, another member of the directorate—the only one who disagreed with Aguero's plan, the one who opposed Aguero's decision to turn in to the National Guard the fighters who were hiding—was the only person who was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to

spend 2 years in jail. Years later, he was murdered. I am referring, with the respect that the FSLN holds for him, to Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal. [applause]

It was Pedro Joaquin who later made Aguero's humbug public, who condemned treason, who maintained an upright stand against Somozism. For that reason, nearly all of today's opposition leaders attempted to isolate him. They stigmatized him; but now they use him shamelessly.

You may wonder: what about the so-called leftist opposition? The same as today. They were the caboose of the right. The difference today is that the revolution has permitted them to have deputies, and therefore their status has improved a little. In 1967, the right, which is identical today—the bright opposition that demanded free and honest elections and that demanded democracy—preemptorily opposed the participation of those small leftist groups belonging to the National Opposition Unity. Therefore, those leftist groups that are inclined to be the caboose, in order to belong to that holy alliance, had to accept belonging to the PLI's rank and file, since that was the only way they could participate in politics.

People are truly greedy; a leopard cannot change its spots. They now mingle with the group of 14 [not further identified]; they are called graduates [licenciados] and mingle with high-class people: with the Rappacciolis, the Gurdianes, and so on. [crowd cheers, applauds]

As you can see, our opposition was not mistreated by Somozism. At the most, some were arrested for a few months to be prepared to pose as opposition members. Only the Sandinists were true detainees. Daniel Ortega and Lenin Cerna were sentenced to 30 years and 7 years, respectively, in prison. They would still be there if we not rescued them with weapons in our hands. [crowd applauds, shouts slogans]

How can these people who were never touched not ask for pardons for those who never mistreated them? They all cry out, they all cry out to us: Do not be bad; grant amnesty to the Somozist Guardsmen. With this, they are asking us to forget the thousands of people murdered on 22 January; they are saying it does not matter that Silvio Parodi and Carlos Munoz Potosme were killed prior to 22 January because nobody told them that the electoral struggle at that time was not for real.

The Sandinists are totalitarian, Marxist-Leninists, bandits, and are crying out: Go with the right! These groups that stubbornly call themselves communists, socialists...[crowd interrupts with applause] and they do that...and do you know why they do that? To ensure that their letters—one of them came out yesterday—and their interviews are prominently published in the newsletter of the U.S. Embassy. They are achieving their objective; they are published. One of them was published yesterday. [crowd shouts slogans]

Well, you will say that is not the left wing. The left wing is here; the left wing is the people, and the left wing is the revolution of the Sandinist people. Those are traitors of the left wing, those are left-wing impostors. [crowd applauds, shouts slogans]

Well, you will ask that if we know the background of these mercenaries, of these lackeys of imperialism, of these shameful pro-Somozists so well, then why have we allowed a Nicaraguan group to meet with them to seek a cease-fire? Why did we lift the state of emergency and give the right wing an opportunity to do propaganda work for the counterrevolution and to defend Reagan? There is a simpler answer: because we want peace. People want peace. Do you want peace? [crowd answers "Yes!" in unison, shout slogans]

We want peace, but a dignified peace. That is why we will continue to fight with weapons in our hands as we have been doing for more than 6 years, fighting for a dignified peace. Free homeland or death! [crowd shouts "Or death!"] We are struggling politically and diplomatically, with weapons in our hands, for a dignified peace. However, if diplomacy and politics fail, we will continue to fight with weapons in our hands.

We have said this before, and we reaffirm it now: If diplomacy and politics fail, our slogan will then be: all for the war! As long as necessary, all for the war! Down to the last man or woman, as long as a Sandinist is breathing, a rifle will roar to defend the homeland and the revolution. [crowd applauds, chants slogans]

We have mentioned some historical facts concerning the 22 January incidents. We have done this because if we compare that experience with situation today, it is obvious that our people presently have a task, a line to follow, which is that we must remain alert. The state of emergency—a legal recourse to defend the revolution—has truly been lifted. However, from now on, we will be on a state of alert, which is our political recourse. This means that we must be ready and willing to defend the revolution on any field or terrain, against any enemy, and with any type of weapon that they choose. [applause, shouts, slogans] It is important for our people to know what a state of alert means, because peace has not yet been attained, and the imperialist and mercenary cannons are still roaring.

On 7 August, our brother Daniel [Ortega] signed the Esquipulas II accords. In this agreement, the Central Americans made commitments to secure the peace for which our peoples yearn. We all agreed—because logically we had, and perhaps admittedly still have, reservations—to create the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS] to verify our compliance with those commitments. The most important Latin American countries are participants in this commission. We wanted to keep Bolivar's spirit alive by showing that Latin America has the maturity and the ability to fight for and consolidate its self-determination.

We did everything we could to comply. We assuredly state that by 15 January, we were the country that had complied most fully with the Esquipulas II agreement. We had to make difficult decisions to comply with the accords, because war had not and still has not ended. Instead, after those conditions for peace were signed, U.S. imperialism—President Reagan—intensified aggression against our people.

Flexibility was difficult. We Sandinists are aware that you and all our people have often found it difficult to understand measures the government has adopted. It has been hard for you to understand the reasons for what you regard as concessions. However, it is important and comforting to know that as a result of the permanent dialogue the revolutionary leadership has maintained with the people, there is already an awareness within the revolutionary Nicaraguan people that we have taken all these flexible steps as a contribution to peace. It is a contribution to peace that the strength of the revolution enables us to make. It is through the strength of the revolution that we can be flexible. That is why there is no other country in the world—there never has been one—in which so much democracy coexists with conditions of war, as in Nicaragua. This is possible because the revolution is strong, because of your support; and because hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans support it with a rifle, a device, or a book in their hands, and with dignity in their hearts to face any aggressor. [applause]

We must bear in mind that the pressure and blackmail imperialism exerts achieve their desired objectives in certain governments. Moreover, the CIVS has been treated with disrespect; the honor of Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay has been questioned; the honor of the UN secretary general and even the honor of the OAS secretary general have been questioned—I purposefully chose the word "even" because the gringos always boast that they can control the OAS. They have been treated with disrespect. Their report on compliance with the peace accords was rejected only for telling the truth; only for reporting on how each country has complied; only because they collected the views of each one of our peoples.

Of course, all this was part of the imperialist pressure to pave the way for its policy of war.

That is why our brother Daniel's task on 15 January was very arduous and difficult. There was constant communication between us because the difficult task, the arduous challenge we faced was to block the path of war, to prevent Reagan from achieving his objective of saying that we Central Americans were incapable of achieving peace and thus obtain support for his warmongering policy.

Thank God the Central American presidents' good sense prevailed, that international expectations bore fruit. Thank God the isthmus' presidents were responsible men and considered the efforts and significance of President Arias' peace plan; and what we have achieved is a conquest for all Central American countries—because we all want peace; [thank God] that today all the presidents have given their word of honor that they will fulfill the commitments, as Nicaragua has been doing. [applause]

That is why Nicaragua, in this new decisive stage, again sought to set the example. This explains the measures announced by Daniel in Costa Rica lifting the state of emergency and others, because through our example we want to inspire other presidents to fulfill the commitments. We do not want to have any more international wire service messages from Honduras saying deputies are being assassinated, as are others working in defense of human rights; so that wire service messagess will not be released in San Salvador reporting the leaders of the Human Rights Commission are being murdered; so that all the Central American presidents will cease their aid to the mercenary forces and break any complicity with Reagan's aggressive policy.

And, what is more important, through this example, which has the revolution's support, we want to invite the U.S. Government to cease its aggression, to stop its warmongering policy, to let us Central Americans forge the peace necessary to face the misery that all the countries of the isthmus face.

This is the most important thing. That is why, although we are aware of the history of these people, we have adopted a flexible policy. The mercenaries and imperialism's puppets are not a danger; the danger is that Reagan's policy may continue and escalate until it has lead us Central Americans to a regional war. That is why this stage is decisive, and that is why we are telling you we must be on a state of alert.

Reagan has insisted, as he said yesterday, he will take the offensive to obtain more funds for his mercenaries. On Monday, in his State of the Union address, he plans to make the official request for funds to continue the war to the U.S. Congress. The Congress must decide on 3 and 4 February if it opts for war or will contribute to peace.

In other words, comrades, 4 February is the day we will know more clearly where we stand. Therefore, since we know where we will stand then, we must be on a state of alert as of now. Therefore, with this ceremony, besides honoring the peoples' martyrs who were killed on 22 January 1967, we are beginning the revolutionary masses' state of political alert: the national state of alert. All the people throughout the country and all FSLN members have been geared up to mobilize in accordance with this state of alert that Nicaragua must maintain until 4 February.

After 15 January, peace and the consolidation of democracy in Central America are in the hands of the U.S. Congress. The fatal deadline also rests with them on 4 February. And we, in the meantime, will remain alert,

ready to make sacrifices in the face of difficulties, dedicating our efforts to work, maintaining our defensive mobilization. Today, in fact, the first contingent of the 1988 Patriotic Military Service volunteers of Managua will lead this march. We will lead their march following the same route the marchers followed on 22 January 1967. The only difference is that now we will not be greeted with bullets by a repressive army at the service of the exploiters; now we will be awaited by them, by our EPS brothers, our brothers of the glorious Sandinist People's Army and of the Interior Ministry; we are awaited by our armed people. [applause]

Furthermore, they are not waiting to shoot us. In fact, they are waiting to give us weapons, to give more weapons to the people so the people can have a better chance of defending themselves. That is why they will symbolically give their weapons to that contingent of volunteers; and the volunteers will receive the weapons on behalf of all the people. We will continue to receive the weapons for as long as there is aggression and for as long as we have to fight for the homeland. [applause]

This symbolic presentation of weapons will prove how we abide by the Republic's Constitution, particularly Articles 93 and 94, which state: The Nicaraguan people have the right to arm themselves to defend their sovereignty, independence, and revolutionary achievements. The state has the duty to direct, organize. and arm the people to guarantee this right. The defense of the homeland and the revolution depends on the people's mobilization and organized participation in the struggle against their aggressors. The state will sponsor the people's participation en masse in all the various forms and tasks of the country's defense.

The Interior Ministry and Army comrades who will present weapons are proof that the revolutionary forces comply with the Constitution and laws. [applause] This action will also prove how Nicaragua epitomizes the essence of democracy, because our Constitution states that the people are the basis of our national sovereignty, because they are the source of our strength and forge their own destiny. The people practice democracy by freely deciding on and participating in the construction of the most appropriate economic, political, and social systems to suit their interests. The power is exercised by the people, either directly or through representatives, who are freely elected by an equal, direct, free, and secret vote. That is why we have said, and we reiterate, that the Sandinist Front will never relinquish power, because we do not usurp the rights of the people; it is the people who are in power. [applause] [crowd shouts indistinct slogans]

If the U.S. Congress is sensible and responsible; if the U.S. Congress cuts all aid to the counterrevolution; and if the U.S. Congress gives peace a chance, then the people will defend their achievements in the production trenches; in the social projects that benefit the people; tilling the land that is finally in the peasants' hands; and building schools. The people will also defend their achievements at the ballot boxes, voting for the FSLN'S red and black flag. [applause]

Do you think that the people will vote for those who want to return to the Somozist past? [crowd shouts: No] Is there anyone with dignity and patriotism in this country who can believe in those parrots who repeat Reagan's speeches in Spanish? [crowd shouts: No] They are the same ones who—when Reagan played his salsa music and called the dance moves—rushed to Guatemala City and embraced their counterrevolutionary brothers. They are the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board members who now claim they did not know that Mr (Cliff) was the CIA agent who presided over their meeting with the counterrevolutionary leaders.

They are the same ones who, after being detained a few hours to investigate the Oliverio plan for joining with the counterrevolution, have begun to scream that there is repression in Nicaragua and that thus it is just for the United States to give more aid to the counterrevolution. However, we are not afraid of them, because they will not defeat us in the elections. [applause]

The thing that worries us is that they have become tools of the Reagan administration's plans for aggression. Even if it is true that they did not dare sign the document that would link them with the counterrevolution, many of them came here to put the plan into action. One only has to look at what took place at the headquarters of the Coordinating Board today. They met and, without complying with the laws of nation, went out and demonstrated. They then had the nerve to destroy FSLN posters urging the people to attend this rally. They carried out provocations to generate news reports that there is repression here. By doing this, they hoped to furnish Reagan with evidence. That is what the Oliverio Plan is all about.

Now they will argue that they were going to demonstrate because the state of emergency has been lifted. It is true that this has been lifted. However, they must not forget that this country still has laws, and that those laws stipulate that any demonstration, any meeting in the streets, must have the prior permission of the police, while a bond must also have been posted.

In fact comrades, we are here today with a police permit that I obtained and a bond that I posted in the name of the FSLN. [applause and shouts: "Long live Sandino!" "Viva!"] Such laws exist all over the world. Maybe now they will say that these laws are repressive, and they will demand that they be repealed, or demand that the Constitution be amended, just as they requested several days ago. Would you accede to the rightist demand to amend our Constitution? [shouts: "No!"] Well, in that

case, the Constitution will not be amended. [applause and shouts] We will instruct the FSLN deputies to cast a negative vote in any attempt to amend the Constitution. [applause]

But, let us return to the state of alert. The provocations are going to continue so that Reagan may be able to get the funds on 4 February. Thus, comrades, it is important not to fall prey to the provocations. One must avoid falling prey to them. Of course, not falling prey to the provocations does not mean being sitting ducks. [applause] We will avoid falling prey to them, but we will not play the role of simpletons.

The government must enforce the law, and we will comply with it. Within their legal rights, the right wing can do whatever it wishes in this country, and we can do the same. [applause] If they, within their legal rights, take to the streets, the FSLN and its people will also take to the streets. [applause]

As long as our cubs are up in the mountains, we will be on alert and be ready to take to the streets. We will see what the U.S. Congress decides on 4 February; we hope for prudence and responsibility. However, you and all our people can rest assured of one thing: We will not live with war, economic difficulties, and, especiallly, with the Oliverio Plan. We will not tolerate a life that is imposed by a war with a Chileanization process, as conceived in early December of last year by members of the Republican Party's political caucus [consejo de politica].

We will not be caught unprepared by military attacks from abroad. We have already said: If the war continues, the vipers will either have to return to their holes or we will crush them. [applause]

This is a crucial moment for the homeland; it is a moment for decisions. Moreover, it is time for a rectification of those who have been on the wrong path. It is time for those who have been involved in Reagan's mess—in the war, as well as in political destabilization—for we still have the opportunity to correct and to help the fatherland. We will welcome and pardon them. However, if there is no peace, if there are no rectifications, if we are forced to continue defending our revolution with arms, we will do just that. The slogan then will be: All for the war; all for the war, because for us, 1988 means the achievement of a dignified peace. Free fatherland or death! [crowd shouts: "Free fatherland or death!"]

'Rebel' Leader Rivera Arrives for Talks

PA240151 Paris AFP in Spanish 0058 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan (AFP)—Rebel leader Brooklyn Rivera arrived in Nicaragua today for negotiations with the Sandinist government on a solution to the Caribbean coastal problems.

Immediately upon his arrival from Costa Rica this afternoon, Rivera held a long meeting with Minister of Interior Tomas Borge. Borge represents Managua in the talks with the representative of the Miskito Indians, who have taken up arms.

The leader arrived at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport at 1810 accompanied by Claudia Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica.

Borge recently stated that he is willing to discuss "any topic" with Rivera, including political matters. This is contrary to Managua's policy concerning talks with the contras ("Nicaraguan Resistance"), which began in December outside the country.

This is the second time in the past 4 years that the government and Rivera will attempt to finalize a negotiated settlement in Managua.

On several occasions, including in October, the parties were unsuccessful in reaching an agreement.

The government stated today that Rivera and his entourage have full guarantees while in Managua. In addition, the government agreed to allow the Miskito leader to enter the country without accepting the amnesty, [a condition] that is in effect for rebel groups.

Obando y Bravo To Leave for Rome 22 Jan

PA221951 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1918 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 22 Jan (DPA)—A spokesman for the Managua curia has reported that Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, mediator between the contras and the Nicaraguan Government in the efforts to agree on a cease-fire in Nicaragua, will leave for Rome today and make a stopover in Miami.

The spokesman said the cardinal is traveling at the invitation of the Salesian congregation to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the death of Don Bosco in Turin, Italy. It had been initially reported in Managua that Obando y Bravo was going to Costa Rica today, but the spokesman ruled this out.

He stated that he will not talk with leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance while in Miami due to the small amount of time he has before his visit to Italy.

In addition, it was announced that Pope John Paul II honored priests Bismarck Carballo and Eddy Montenegro with the title of monsignor. This title means "his holiness honor prelate."

Defense Ministry Reports Contra Plane Downed

PA241707 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1649 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] A Defense Ministry bulletin reports that yesterday at approximately 2200, a contra plane was shot down while attempting to drop supplies to mercenaries operating in the area. EPS troops immediately arrived at the site where the plane was downed, but it has not yet been possible to locate the exact crash site. The entire zone where the downed contra plane crashed has been covered by EPS soldiers, the Defense Ministry bulletin reports.

Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Calderon, chief of the military zone, will hold a news conference later. He will provide further details on this new downing of a counterrevolutionary aircraft.

Local and foreign reporters are at this time preparing to travel to the site of the incident, according to the most recent reports received by La Voz de Nicaragua.

Contra Said To Confirm Report

PA242014 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1957 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] International sources confirmed that the counterrevolution conceded today that one of its aircraft has been shot down. Marta Sacasa, spokeswoman for the counterrevolution in Miami, said that the plane was a DC-6 and that its crew died in action. She noted that the aircraft was carrying arms, ammunition, and medicine. The spokeswoman added that the contras assume the EPS posesses some new type of Soviet weapon for detecting and following the counterrevolutionary supply flights.

Ortega on Effect of Incident

PA242133 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2003 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today reported that 10 persons were killed and 1 was captured last night when EPS soldiers downed a "contra" supply plane near the Costa Rican border. The ministry added that the aircraft, a DC-6, was shot down by EPS antiaircraft fire at 2200 yesterday in Los Chiles. The nationality of the crew was not disclosed.

In an interview with ACAN-EFE, President Daniel Ortega stated that "this is a very important incident, because it proves this method of supplying [the contras] is doomed to fail." Ortega added that "all this influences the U.S. Congress, because the American people are very pragmatic. They will not invest in a business that is doomed to fail."

Ortega noted that even though the DC-6 was downed a few km from the Costa Rican border, its flight pattern showed it was coming from Honduras or El Salvador. The Sandinist leader recalled that the plane of U.S. citizen Eugene Hasenfus was shot down in the same area in October 1986. Hasenfus was also flying supplies to the contras. The plane of U.S. citizen James Denby was additionally downed in this area in December 1987.

The Nicaraguan president added that the CIA has been trying to establish a southern front for some time, but said that the Sandinists have forced the "contras" to withdraw closer to the Costa Rican border.

Survivor on Role of Honduras

PA251433 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Jan 88

[Text] A U.S.-made DC-6 aircraft that had been used to supply the counterrevolutionary forces was downed on 23 January in the area of Lomas del Areno, 32 km east of San Carlos, in Rio San Juan Department. The plane was flying toward El Cisne Island, Honduras, which it had left the previous morning to supply food and ammunition to mercenaries of the Jorge Salazar Regional Command No 2. The aircraft was shot down by two (C2M) missiles.

According to one of the survivors who was captured by the militia of the town of Los Chiles, there were 10 contras aboard the plane. Four of these, including a Colombian pilot named Richard, were killed in the crash. Another five contras parachuted out of the aircraft and are being sought by Sandinist troops.

When journalists visited the site yesterday, the wreckage was still smoldering. Photographs were found showing three Americans and one Latin American. One of the gringos was identified as a member of the group of Americans at the camp on El Cisne Island, Honduras.

The counterrevolutionary plane downed on 23 January was one of the two planes at the contra base on El Cisne Island, Honduras. Alejandro Sanchez Herrera, the only member of the six survivors of the downed plane to be captured, told this to journalists who toured the crash site. The captured contra identified the pilot as a Colombian who used the pseudonym of Richard, and the copilot as a Nicaraguan named (Frixione). The aircraft was also carrying two paratroopers and six kickers [preceding word in English], the name given to the men who drop the packages of weapons, food, and clothing for the contras.

Sanchez Herrera reported that at the El Cisne base, there are 30 U.S. soldiers commanded by an American named Johnson, and 45 Honduran soldiers in charge of guarding the base. According to Sanchez Herrera, this base, which is used by the U.S. Government to drop supplies to the contras, has a 3,000-meter runway. There are 10 containers with food, ammunition, and clothing, as well as two warehouses that hold all types of articles. Sanchez

Herrera left from this base on flights to Nicaragua to supply the contras on 18, 19, 20, 26, 28, and 30 December; and on 17 and 23 January, the day the plane was shot down.

Contras Claim Sandinist Helicopter Shot Down

PA221944 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Report by Alejandro Acevedo]

[Text] This is a direct and exclusive report from Honduras for Radio Impacto. Your attention, please:

The strategic command of the northern front of the Nicaraguan Resistance army has reported that a military transport helicopter was downed yesterday between the areas of Jinotega and central Zelaya, in the place known as El Chilamate.

The downing of this MI-17 military transport helicopter is the first of 1988.

As can be noted, last year more than 26 helicopters were shot down by the rebel column, which is presently equipped with Redeye surface-to-air missiles.

According to the report provided by the strategic command of the northern front, the Abel missile-firing command was able to strike the helicopter with a Redeye missile. The helicopter then caught fire and crashed into the ground. The Abel missile-firing command belongs to the Alonso Ramos regional command.

It is not yet known how many persons were on board the helicopter or how many were killed due to the missile attack.

This is the first helicopter the rebels have downed in 1988.

Panama

Differences With U.S. Being Resolved 'Slowly'

PA211457 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abadia] We believe that the Central American presidents are seriously and responsibly committed—not only with the Central American countries but also with the international community—to comply with the requirements and mandates of Esquipulas II. We believe the decision adopted by President Ortega is important, is positive. All the actions that were decided on and adopted in Costa Rica show us that the Contadora path was the right path. The International Verification and Follow-Up Commission will have to continue operating to verify in the field, on site, whether or not the acquired commitments are being fully complied with or not.

[Reporter] How are relations between Panama and the United States and Costa Rica?

[Abadia] We have no problem with Costa Rica. Our relations with that country are very, very good, as usual.

The differences we have had with the United States are being resolved slowly, little by little. The most important aspect is that the two governments have demonstrated they have the will to find a solution and to maintain this will that presently exists. I know both governments have this will. I know it. It is most important to maintain this will as a permanent attitude of good intentions, mutual respect, and consideration for the national dignity of each country.

Civic Crusade Says Noriega 'Must Leave'

PA201937 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jan 88 pp 1, 12

[Communique issued by the National Civic Crusade on 19 January 1988 in Panama City]

[Text] Today—as yesterday—after 7 months of a harsh and unequal struggle, the National Civic Crusade reiterates its unyielding objective: To achieve a full democracy where justice and freedom will prevail.

The tyranny has answered our peaceful struggle with birdshot and bullets, imprisonment, persecution, and exile. Today, there are many Panamanian homes in mourning for those who have been killed or crippled by the oppressors. They have restricted our rights of freedom of expression and to public peaceful demonstrations. However, in spite of the brutal opression, we continue and will continue firm in our patriotic and moral goals.

We once again state that the solution to the national crisis demands that Manuel Antonio Noriega must leave, along with those military collaborators who are undeniably implicated in the worst crimes of the regime.

We are pleased to see that certain plans recently made public indicate that the armed institution has accepted Noriega's and his cohorts' departure, along with other important changes in the structure of the Defense Forces. We reiterate that the armed institution must fully comply with the commitments stipulated by the law and respect the constitution for its own sake, but above all, for the sake of the fatherland.

We warn, however, that the Panamanian people will tolerate neither Norieagaism [Norieguismo] without Noriega, nor the continuation of the so-called revolutionary process but without the presence of the current commander. Therefore, we reiterate that once Noriega

has been separated, it is necessary to establish a transition government that will guide the nation along an orderly path, and—in short time—to a legal state and a full democracy. Therefore, we have made public our proposal for the reorganization of a transition government. This proposal will be made public and will be broadly discussed by all groups and sectors of our country so that, together with the opposition political parties, we will reach a consensus that will allow us to achieve our democratic goals.

Meanwhile, we will continue firm and active as the noble Panamanian people demand, voicing, wherever and whenever possible our rejection of this regime and our unyielding willingness to continue struggling for democracy, freedom, and justice until we achieve final victory.

Issued in Panama City on 19 January 1988 by the National Civic Crusade.

More Protests Planned

PA212246 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 88 p 1

[Communique issued by the Panamanian National Civic Crusade, CCN; date or place not given—uppercase as published]

[Text] Why Are We Struggling [subhead]

From the day the CCN was created, it brought together all Panamanians who yearned for a moral and democratic change. This feeling has guided all our actions and is the source for the renewal of our actions: To live in Panama with JUSTICE, DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY, AND HONESTY.

During these 7 months of arduous work, this movement has become the country's moral mainspring, thanks to the joint effort of the great majority of Panamanians. For that reason, our commitment became unbreakable during the most trying times. Today, after having endured all sorts of abuses, we tell all CNN supporters [Civilistas] that their movement remains intact and that our convictions have grown in strength through all our experiences.

We know the tyranny of Manuel Antonio Noriega has done everything to destroy us. However, the force that comes from our guiding principles and the credibility that we have managed to maintain are our chief weapons in our continuous struggle against the government. This government is now known the world over for being controlled by an individual accused of serious crimes that besmirch the good name of our long-suffering Republic. The same Republic they claim to honor and defend.

That is why we continue struggling. That is why the PANAMANIAN PEOPLE shall live in the Panama they deserve. They shall have rulers that will represent them with decency and honesty.

That is why final victory is near and it will be ours.

Activities [subhead]

Thursday, 21 January, 1200-1300: Honk your horn, bang your pots, wave your handkerchief, and throw a lot of paper on Liberty Avenue. [50th Street]

Friday, 22 January, 1200-1300: Paper throwing competition among the buildings located in the banking sector and nearby areas. CCN observers will be there to declare the winners. This action is to reject Noriega and his henchmen.

Saturday, 23 January: White paint; adorn you streets with the word "Democracy." Organize your neighborhood for street actions.

Sunday, 24 January, 1100: Mass at Christ the King Church. Afterwards, there will be a march and motorcade.

Monday, 25 January, 1200-1300: Lots of car honking and paper throwing on Avenida Espana.

Thursday 26 January, 1700: Civic rally for freedom of expression at the EL SIGLO installations.

Wednesday, 27 January, 1700: General assembly of the delegates that comprise the CCN at the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture building.

Get Ready For: [subhead]

1. A white welcome for the exiled CCN supporters.

2. A great white rally.

3. No lottery. No racetracks. No casinos. Do not pay your taxes and delay paying your electricity, water and telephone bills. Keep in mind that the government uses your money to continue the corruption and repression against the people.

Exiled Leaders To Return

PA210001 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Jan 88 p 1

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Raul Mendez, acting president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture, told LA PRENSA that the four National Civic Crusade (CCN) leaders in exile in the United States should arrive in Panama next week.

For security reasons he declined to give the exact date of arrival. However, he said Gilbert Mallol, Aurelio Barria, Roberto Brenes, and Eduardo Vallarino "have decided to return together."

Mendez also noted that when the exiled Crusaders [Cruzados; nickname for the CNN leaders] return, they will continue with their struggle, since all of us will continue with the same line of struggle.

However, Mendez said fear of repression "is always present because we are living in a country where everything is done by force." However, "they, the Crusaders, are prepared to face this."

Argentina

Army Situation, Rico Case Developments Noted

Airport Takeover Discussed

PY221155 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0022 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jan (NA)—Government sources confirmed today that the civilian and military members of the group that seized the Metropolitan Airport for 4 hours on Monday were trying to abduct Joint Armed Forces Chief of Staff Brigadier Teodoro Waldner.

According to these sources, the members of the group wanted to take Waldner prisoner as soon as he got off the plane bringing him from a summer resort on the Atlantic Ocean.

However, court sources stated tonight that investigations of the takeover of the metropolitan airport "have yielded no evidence that the intention was to abduct the high-ranking military officer."

Other reports, which could not be officially confirmed, stated that the group that seized the airport was also after Air Force Bigadier Ernesto Crespo. The group was reportedly misled by the mistaken information that Crespo would go to the airport that morning to welcome Waldner.

The Air Force members detained after the seizure include: Vice Commodores [Vice Comodoros] Jorge Lavella and Puig, Majors Robles and Richardelli, Captain Felix Herrera, and Ensign Julio Videla, all on active duty.

The following also had joined the group: Major Julio Tuli, retired, and intelligence agents Alberto Telias, Oscar Hugo Calzada, and Enrique Calzada.

Other military officers detained include: Captain Alejandro Margarian, of the Army; Noncommissioned Officer Godofredo Puschiazoz, of the Naval Prefecture; and Corporals Juan Jose Arvis and Omar Cabrera, of the Federal Police.

The civilians detained as a result of the airport takeover are: Rafael Cobo, Gabriel de Ergupin, and Guillermo Ferrari. Moreover, ultranationalist Catholic leader Oscar Castrogiovanni, alias "Castroge," has, since Monday, been at the Paraguayan Embassy, where he sought refuge.

'Absent' Officer Arrested

PY221549 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1425 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jan (NA)— It has been learned that Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, who in September 1987 was dismissed as commander of the 3d Regiment of La Tablada, is under arrest at a military unit in Greater Buenos Aires.

The officer had been absent from his post "for unknown reasons" since the outbreak of the Monte Caseros incident. Upon leaving La Tablada in September, Fernandez Maguer told reporters he was a "friend" of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico.

Communique on Trial Released

PY221627 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1450 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jan (NA)— The Army General Staff today released the following communique:

"The Army General Staff reports to the people:

"Any breach of discipline in the Army is to be investigated by a military court. Pretrial inquests should be conducted by military judges of the corps or brigades where violations are committed.

"In relation to the events that occured in the Monte Caseros military garrison, it should be pointed out that the above general criterion does not apply because Article 182 of the Military Justice Code says that any pretrial inquest should include violations committed by the accussed after the pretrial inquest has started.

"Therefore, that investigation will be a continuation of the pretrial inquest related to events that occurred in the infantry school during Holy Week 1987.

"Therefore, the case is in the hands of military judge No 2, Colonel Mario Eduardo Serra, who, with his permanent secretary, will cooperate with Colonel Conrado Strommer and Major Jose Luis Armani to speed up the investigation as much as possible to determine the legal responsibilities of those involved."

[Words indistinct] signed by [name indistinct], chief of the Army Press Department.

Castrogiovanni Asylum Viewed

PY221837 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Argentine Foreign Ministry will send a note to the Paraguayan ambassador in Buenos Aires, Miguel Angel Bestard, stating that the request for asylum submitted by Argentine citizen Oscar Castrogiovanni, nicknamed Castroge, is not applicable because Castrogiovanni has no pending legal problems and is, therefore, free to enter or leave Argentina.

According to the Foreign Ministry, it has checked with the courts and found that Castrogiovanni has no pending case or sentence that prevents him from leaving the country. If Castrogiovanni fears being on the streets, special surveillance will be established to guarantee his safety on the way to Ezeiza airport.

Castrogiovanni distributed pamphlets supporting former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico in the federal capital last weekend. He also distributed these pamphlets near the metropolitan airport on the morning of 18 January, while a subversive group took over the airport.

Colonels' Retirement Accepted

PY221938 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1855 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jan (NA)— It has been officially reported that the Army General Staff has accepted retirement requests submitted by the commanders of the 2d and 5th Infantry Brigades, Colonels Alberto Colotti and Carlos Farwig, respectively.

In a communique, the Army General Staff also reports that the new commanders will be designated within the next few days, and that no other commander will be relieved from those large Army units.

328 Reportedly in Custody

PY242051 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Jan 88 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—The Army reported last night that there are now 328 officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO's) under arrest for their participation in the recent uprisings.

The Army communique specified that of the 328 detainees, 87 are officers and 241 NCO's. It also said that of the 250 detainees at Magdalena Military Prison, nine are senior officers, 39 junior officers, and 202 are NCO's. [passage omitted]

Central Bank President on Debt Negotiations

PY182337 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1832 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Jan (TELAM)—Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille returned today from the United States, where he held 4 days of meetings with U.S. Government officials and representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, and creditor banks. The Argentine foreign debt was the topic of discussion in the meetings.

According to presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez, after his arrival at Ezeiza Airport the minister, who did not meet with the media, spoke to President Raul Alfonsin by phone.

During the conversation, Minister Sourrouille briefed the president on the results of his talks, which he said had been very satisfactory. He then left for his house in Pinamar, where he will spend the rest of the weekend.

Upon his arrival at the international airport, Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea downplayed reports stating that Sourrouille threatened the foreign creditors with the possibility of declaring a moratorium on the foreign debt.

In this regard, Machinea explained that this year Argentina intends to disburse only 50 percent of the foreign debt interest that falls due in 1988, but noted that this is what the country has been doing for the past 4 years.

The Central Bank president accompanied Sourrouille to Washington, together with Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn—who will return tomorrow—and Central Bank Director Daniel Marx.

Machinea added that in order to honor its commitments, Argentina will not have any problems in obtaining financing from its creditors and international organizations, such as the IMF and the World Bank.

The Central Bank president then went on to say that before 15 February, Argentina should receive the second portion of the World Bank's $175-million loan for the agricultural sector and that the first disbursement of the new $400-million loan, which the same bank is about to approve, might also be made before the end of February.

Machinea ended by stating that the country's foreign obligations might require some adjustments around March or April. Therefore, he intends to go back to the United States in about 10 days to speed things up and obtain the necessary funds.

During his 4-day visit to the United States, Sourrouille held talks with IMF Director Michel Camdessus, U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker, and World Bank Director Barber Conable.

In the meantime, in Buenos Aires, the IMF mission headed by Brian Stuart continues working. Yesterday Stuart met with Economic Policy Under Secretary Juan Sommer to analyze the economic evaluation being made by the IMF experts.

Yesterday, Sommer disclosed that during a meeting held in Washington, Baker reiterated to Sourrouille the promise to support Argentina's stance with the purpose of getting the IMF to disburse $250 million corresponding to a stand- by loan granted in 1987.

IDB Denies Credits Due to Overdue Payments

PY242034 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Jan 88 p 5

[Text] Argentina "is not elegible" for Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) credits because the country owes the international credit organization 42.8 million dollars worth of overdue payments, financial sources said here yesterday.

It was also reported that the executive board of the IDB did not consider the loan programme put forward by Argentina during its latest meeting, held on January 16. Argentina withdrew that programme, which called for some 70 million dollars in loans, in order to "tie it to other credit plans," sources in Buenos Aires said.

By the end of 1987, Argentina was behind with 60 million dollars worth of payments but disbursements made in early January narrowed the debt to 37.2 million dollars, plus the equivalent of 5.6 million dollars in local currency.

Meanwhile, sources at the Economy Ministry yesterday denied the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation, which spent three weeks in Buenos Aires checking up on the figures of the last quarter of the past year, had demanded the implementation of new economic adjustments.

Even though the ministry admitted there were differences between the delegation headed by Desmond Lackman and the economic team regarding the economic results of the last three months of 1987, particularly in the case of fiscal policy, it was also denied that the guidelines for 1988 were discussed.

In fact, sources stressed that this topic as well as the country's financing needs for 1988 will be negotiated by Central Bank President Jose Luis Machinea, who is expected in the United States on Monday.

The setting-up of guidelines between the economic authorities and the IMF is a key issue because those goals have to be included in the 1988 budget.

Press reports had indicated that the IMF delegation had hinted the Argentine authorities should increase the austral devaluation in order to keep exchange rates high, reduce the fiscal deficit (basically through massive hikes of public utility rates) and restrict certain imports so as to improve the trade surplus.

Central Bank Orders Devaluation of Austral

PY200223 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1445 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (NA)—The Central Bank today ordered a 0.78-percent devaluation of the austral. This means that in comparison with the U.S. dollar, 3.88 and 3.99 australes, respectively, will be required to purchase and sell a dollar.

This is the fifth devaluation of the austral this month. It has been devalued by a total of 3.71 percent in 19 days.

Labor Minister Lauds Wage Bargaining Talks

PY150045 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 14 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Labour Minister Ideler Tonelli said last night that the agreements emerging from the wage bargaining talks could well be the cornerstone of an overall social pact but warned that the government would not allow wage hikes to be transferred excessively to prices.

In a 15-minute radio and television speech to announce the reinstatement of the bargaining talks, banned 12 years ago by the former military regime, the minister described the talks as another step forward in the transition process towards a full democratic system.

This was the system President Raul Alfonsin proposed to the nation when he took office on December 10, 1983, Tonelli said.

He said employers and labour union leaders should not try to obtain all their targets as the forthcoming talks on collective wage agreements would only be the start of a process that would build up in the future, and therefore their efficency and permanency should be ensured.

The minister stressed that the laws reinstating the wage talks were passed by Congress on the basis of projects submitted by the government which suffered some changes during the parliamentary debate.

This was in keeping with the powers of both Houses of Congress and the laws were therefore the work of the social and political community, Tonelli said.

He said the government was drafting rules on the procedures to be followed in the talks but that the initiative to launch the talks was a privilege reserved for the two parties concerned—employers and workers represented by their professional associations.

Either party could call the talks but in all cases the Labour Ministry had to be informed of this, the minister said.

Tonelli said the decrees regulating the laws would be issued long before the 120-day deadline.

Bolivia

Funding, Effectiveness of Drug Fight Viewed

PY141406 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete reported that the government has allocated 9 million Bolivian pesos to the struggle against drug trafficking. This money will be used primarily to pay for operational costs throughout Bolivian territory.

Bedregal on Inadequate Equipment

PY151325 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The equipment used by the special force for the struggle against drug trafficking is inadequate and insufficient for the tasks of fighting against traffickers who have much better resources, according to Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal. Bedregal made this statement yesterday before the Senate where he was summoned to answer questions on the plan for the struggle against drug trafficking.

Minister Bedregal explained that the special force for the struggle against drug trafficking is facing health problems, as well as insufficient materiel and equipment. This can be added to logistical constraints and lack of appropriate housing, uniforms, and adequate salaries.

The special force is obviously much weaker than drug traffickers who employ all possible means to carry out their activities, the foreign minister stated. He added that so far no direct confrontation has taken place, and that only some isolated acts have been carried out.

The foreign minister asked the Senate to cooperate with the government in order to realize more effective support for the struggle against drug trafficking by obtaining adequate economic resources and equipment for this difficult task.

Interior Minister Cited

PY161529 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran has stated that drug traffickers like to carry weapons to protect themselves during their illegal activities, but he ruled out the existance of well-organized groups. Duran told journalists that the government has been able to confirm this situation through its specialized organizations that have carried out operations in several regions of Bolivia. He added that many types of weapons used by the drug traffickers for their illegal activities were found during these operations.

Special Force To Be Reorganized

PY190048 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0156 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] La Paz, 16 Jan (EFE)—Bolivian Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete Rosales today said that the organizations fighting drug trafficking are doing "inefficient" work in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz Departments, which are the main suppliers of cocaine for the international market.

Alderete asserted that this situation has forced the government to undertake significant changes of personnel in the antidrug trafficking organizations.

Alderete reported that the decision was made after an evaluation meeting held among personnel from these departments.

He said that the special force for control of drug trafficking will be reorganized. This force is made up of 15,000 men from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Police. It is commanded by General Humberto Palacios Medina, retired, who is assisted by a staff of four colonels.

Alderete reported that the government is planning to eliminate the aforementioned staff in order to make the leadership of the antidrug trafficking organization more efficient.

Coca Substitution Agreement Ratified

PY181315 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Information Minister German Antelo has announced that the agreement with coca leaf producers to gradually replace this product with other crops has been ratified. However, the minister voiced the government's concern over attempts by drug traffickers to influence the coca producers. In this regard Antelo stated:

[Begin Antelo recording] The under secretary for alternative development and substitution of coca cultivation [Anibal Aguilar] has held a meeting with representatives of organizations involved in the coca substitution program, and they have ratified the agreement signed with the peasants. However, this does not ease our concern, since we have received information that drug traffickers are influencing the leaders of the coca producers and promoting all types of actions against the program to replace coca crops. [end recording]

Brazil

Libyan Military Mission Discussing Arms Deal

PY221346 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Jan 88 p 21

[Text] A Libyan military mission is in Brazil to conclude one of the largest arms deals ever made by the Brazilian weapons industry, worth approximately $2 billion (158 billion cruzados). The Libyan mission comprises 12 colonels headed by Colonel Ahmed Mahmoude Ali, who is in charge of war materiel and is very close to President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The mission met yesterday with Army Minister Leonidas Pires Goncalves and Aeronautics Minister Moreira Lima.

Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Paulo Roberto Camarinha will receive the Libyan mission this morning. The Libyans are interested in buying Osorio tanks and Leo and Piranha missiles. The transaction is being carried out within the framework of the recently created Brazilian-Libyan Joint Committee.

This committee held a meeting in October 1987 to facilitate trade between the two countries, including payment in Libyan oil for Brazilian weapons.

On that occasion, it was agreed that Libya would supply 40,000 to 50,000 barrels of oil per day to Brazil in payment for the weapons and for the services of Brazilian companies working in Libya. Itamaraty representatives on the joint committee include Ambassadors Luis Vilarinho, chief of the Trade Promotion Department, and Sampaio do Amaral, chief of the Near East Department.

On paper, this transaction is larger than the one closed a few days ago with Saudi Arabia. The Saudi ambassador was at Itamaraty yesterday working on the details of his country's deal, which in its initial stage provides for the pruchase of 500 tanks (for a total of $1 billion). The Libyan deal, however, includes two other stages apart from the purchase of tanks: the assembly of 500 Brazilian tanks in Libya and, in the medium term, the purchase of 500 more tanks totally manufactured in Saudi Arabia. [as published] The total deal will be worth $5 billion.

Brazil has sold other weapons to Libya in the past. It requipped the Libyan Army with Urutu and Cascavel tanks, in a deal worth close to $200 million. This trade was suspended in 1983 after an incident in which Libyan planes were caught flying over Brazilian territory.

The Libyans are visiting Brazil at the invitation of ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc], manufacturers of war equipment such as the Urutu and Cascavel tanks and the Osorio tank, the latest star in the Brazilian arsenal.

Offers Missile Development Aid

PY231535 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Jan 88 p 2

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The Libyan military mission that is currently visiting Brazil is mainly interested in the development of a whole "family" of the MB/EE series of ballistic missiles to carry conventional warheads weighing up to 1 ton distances of 100, 600, and 1,000 km. This series is being designed by Orbita-Special Systems, the enterprise the delegation will visit today at the invitation of ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc]. The delegation is headed by Ahmed Mahmoude Ali, director general for armament supplies. The Libyan delegation is made up of 15 specialists, 12 of whom are Armed Forces officers. Their visit is being sponsored by ENGESA.

According to sources from the War Materiel Department (DMB) of the Army Ministry, Mahmoude Ali expressed his government's interest in financing the program, purchasing the first lot of the series, and then placing an order that guarantees Libya access to the technology. The MB/EE-600 and MB/EE-1000 missiles will be developed on the basis of knowledge acquired in the manufacture of the experimental scientific rockets Sonda II and Sonda IV.

The Libyan delegation is comprised of high-level personnel. For instance, Mahmoude Ali reports directly to leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and has the authority to sign contracts for any war material.

The product that elicited the most interest by the delegation was the battle tank Osorio EE-TI, which is equipped with a 120-mm cannon. This is the model that passed technical and field tests in Saudi Arabia last year and was selected as the combat vehicle for that country's Army.

As far as tactical missiles, the MB/EE-150 will be the first model with a dual launcher mounted on a semi-armored chassis. This model will be electronically autonomous, meaning that a 3- or 4-man crew will be able to launch the missiles without any outside support. Its range carrying a 500-kg warhead is estimated at 100-150 km. According to engineer Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro, "this missile hit the target center 50 percent of the time in tests."

That missile measures more than 12 meters and has a delicate guidance system, with an inertial device and other precision sensors to make last-minute flight changes. In the opinion of an officer-engineer from the war materiel sector of the Brazilian Army, the development of the MB/EE "family" will require at least 5 years from the time the contract is signed until the first firing tests are conducted. Investments will need to reach $400 million per year in order to complete the project.

Bid To Supply Tanks to Saudi Arabia Accepted

PY091950 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jan 88 p A-7

[By Dalton Moreira]

[Excerpt] The Brazilian military industry bid to supply 1,200 heavy tanks to Saudi Arabia has been accepted. This will be the biggest contract for the sale of Brazilian arms abroad ever. The contract involves $5 billion (462.5 billion cruzados at the unofficial exchange rate and 369.5 billion cruzados at the official exchange rate). The winner is the EE-T1 Osorio tank, which is manufactured by ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Inc], an enterprise located in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State (97 km northeast of Sao Paulo city). The contract will be signed by the end of the month.

A Brazilian delegation made up of representatives of Itamaraty, the Army, and the industry has been in Riyadh (capital of Saudi Arabia) since December 1987 negotiating the various clauses of the contract, such as technology transfer, the deadline for the installation of a factory to produce Osorio tanks in Saudi Arabia, training

of personnel, and terms of payment. By the end of this year the Saudi Arabian Army will receive 236 tanks. In order to speed up production of the tank, ENGESA has already received $165 million (15.2 billion cruzados at the unofficial exchange rate and 12.2 billion cruzados at the official exchange rate) from the National Economic and Social Development Bank (BNDES). [passage omitted]

Tank Characteristics Outlined

PY092120 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Jan 88 p A-7

[Excerpt] The EE-T1 Osorio is a heavy tank that weighs 42 tons and can be equipped with either a 105-mm or a 120-mm gun. The result of a highly advanced development program, it is fitted with a computer-controller firing system. For example, if one were to target the gun, it would not fire as long as there were a margin of error. The tank has a composite armor which is both highly resistant and light.

Automatic sensors are used to stabilize the tank's turret. It is also equipped with night vision, which permits the sighting of targets invisible to the naked eye. The tank has laser sighting and rangefinding equipment. The target is sighted through a video camera and can be easily hit within a range of 4 km. [passage omitted]

Cuban Foreign Minister Visits Rio de Janeiro

PY231741 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0810 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Jan (EFE) —Brazil and Cuba will intensify cooperation in the areas of health and biotechnology, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca said today in this capital.

Foreign Minister Malmierca, who had to endure the sweltering Rio de Janeiro summer, toured the installations of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, where the key bilateral programs are being implemented.

Malmierca noted the importance of bilateral cooperation for scientific development in the two countries and urged the Cuban and Brazilian Governments to expand their joint efforts in other scientific areas.

He noted that although this is a courtesy visit to Brazil, it has resulted in the signing of new agreements between the two countries "which have a lot to give each other."

Cuban advisers are now in Brazil cooperating in dengue control and receiving medical training.

The Cuban minister, who met with President Jose Sarney and Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre yesterday in Brasilia, will travel to Sao Paulo tomorrow, Friday, 22 January, and from there he will depart for Montevideo, Uruguay, on Sunday, 24 January.

Sarney Swears In New Planning Minister

PY230210 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Newly appointed Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu assumed his post today with the determination to control the public deficit and curb inflation.

President Jose Sarney swore in the new minister in a ceremony that lasted a little over 10 minutes. Joao Batista de Abreu is replacing Anibal Teixeira, who will now totally dedicate himself to the electoral campaign for mayor of Belo Horizonte.

In his speech, Sarney thanked former Minister Teixeira for his services to the government. Afterward, the president praised Joao Batista de Abreu, calling him his personal friend. The president nonetheless warned the new planning minister to comply strictly with the national budget, to control the public deficit, and to curb inflation, in order to achieve the main national goal, which is economic growth.

[Begin Sarney recording] Harmony and cooperation in the economic team, the help of the ministers, and total loyalty to the president's guidelines will guarantee the success of the austerity policy. The public accounts must be balanced to ensure the success of the government plan. [end recording]

Joao Batista de Abreu said he was well aware of the great challenge ahead of him.

[Begin De Abreu recording] Without a doubt, this is the greatest challenge of my career as an economist and civil servant. Brazilian society is currently undergoing great difficulties. Therefore, the country demands from its public servants total dedication, effort, and humility to turn back, with hard work and a coordinated and concentrated effort, the threat of recession. [end recording]

Minister Joao de Abreu promised to work hard to restore the real role of the Planning Secretariat within the framework of President Sarney's government policy.

14 Doctors To Treat Palestinian Refugees

PY211704 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1451 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Sao Paulo, 21 Jan (EFE)—Fourteen Brazilian doctors will travel to Israel next week to treat Palestinians who live in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip and West Bank. This was reported today by the doctors' representatives.

Arlindo Chignaglia, president of the Sao Paulo Physicians Association, said the Brazilian doctors will remain in that area of conflict for about 2 months.

The possibility of this trip emerged last November, when Chignaglia's Palestinian colleague, Fathi'Arafat, who is PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's brother, issued the invitation.

The Brazilian doctors have also received invitations from the "Red Crescent" (equivalent of the Red Cross in Arab countries) to treat Palestinian refugees.

Last week a group of Brazilian congressmen visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which are occupied by Israel, to observe the situation.

Chile

U.S. Petition in Letelier Case Noted

PY230051 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources today said a request sent by the U.S. State Department for questioning General Hector Orozco regarding the Letelier case will be sent to the Supreme Court as soon as possible.

The request was forwarded by the U.S. Embassy to the Chilean Foreign Ministry yesterday.

According to the sources, Gen Orozco will have to answer questions concerning his role as prosecutor in the passports case [not further identified].

Peruvian Shipping Restrictions Criticized

PY222007 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] The Chilean Transportation and Telecommunications Ministry has asked Peruvian merchant marine officials to clarify a resolution they released 6 days ago regarding permission for Chilean vessels to transport cargo from that country.

It should be recalled that as of February 1986 Peruvian regulations required that all Peruvian cargo be transported by Peruvian vessels. It was forbidden, under these regulations, for Chilean vessels to transport Peruvian cargo to or from third countries, especially from Peru to the United States.

The Chilean ministry complained that, although the prohibition has been suspended, there are still certain restrictions. The ministry added that Chile allows Peruvian vessels to transport its sea cargo freely and without any restriction.

One Killed in Smuggling Incident With Peru

PY200230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2052 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Santiago, 19 Jan (EFE)—The newspaper EL MERCURIO today reported that a Peruvian policeman was killed and several other people seriously wounded during a confusing border incident which has been covered up. Two of the wounded are Chileans.

According to the newspaper, the incident took place on Peruvian territory, a few kilometers from the Chilean border.

Apparently, some smugglers were trying to pass a clandestine shipment of house appliances from the Chilean city of Iquique, 1,867 km north of Santiago, to the Peruvian city of Tacna, from where the goods were to be distributed to the rest of the country.

EL MERCURIO stated that the Peruvian border police refused to report the incident, while the Chilean police said they knew nothing about it since it took place in Peru.

The police also prevented reporters from going near two disabled cars which remained in the location where the incident took place, 6 km from the so-called Concord Line or the Pan-American Highway. Apparently, these vehicles were used by the smugglers.

According to the daily, large shipments are smuggled from Chile into Peru, and the police frequently arrest Peruvian and Chilean citizens who try to pass the border points of Chacalluta, Chile, and Santa Rosa, Peru, with camouflaged smuggled goods.

Police Dispute Report of Fugitive's Escape

PY191626 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 15 Jan 88 p C-7

[Excerpt] "The FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] may say that they got Sergio Buschmann out through the "Laura Operation," or by any other means, but since it is an underground organization we cannot always keep track of its movements. The truth is that there is no serious indication that Buschmann is abroad. We have no proof that he has left the country."

This statement was made yesterday by Carlos Zurita, acting public relations chief of the Investigative Police, commenting on a report that terrorist Sergio Buschmann, who is being tried in connection with the finding of an arsenal, has managed to flee from the country.

Zurita added that "this could be a FPMR maneuver to get the police to stop their search, which will not happen, because the search will continue until the fugitive is found and placed at the disposal of the Court." [passage omitted]

Carabineros Find Weapons in San Miguel

PY190052 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] During an operation, conducted in the past few hours, involving investigating charges about a reported arsenal, San Miguel District Carabineros found weapons and subversive material.

Carabineros personnel arrived at a house at 3597 (Salomon Dorfman) Street, where they found a Cobra special 38-caliber revolver, another revolver [brand name indistinct], and a 6.35-caliber [word indistinct] with no brand name.

Carabineros also seized 70 bullets of various calibers, a grenade, ski masks, and a large quantity of subversive material. So far, no arrests have been reported.

Carabineros personnel reported the findings to the Santiago II Military Court.

Colombia

M-19 Announces 6-Month Truce Beginning 25 Jan

PA222233 Paris AFP in Spanish 2216 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 22 Jan (AFP)—The Colombian 19 April (M-19) guerrilla movement has decided to call a 6-month truce beginning on Monday, 25 January.

An announcement to this effect was made by Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, the leader of that group, on a tape sent to Circuito Todelar radio station.

Group Tied to Drug 'Mafia' Claims Kidnapping

PA222031 Paris AFP in Spanish 1930 GMT 22 Jan 88

[Text] Bogota, 22 Jan (AFP)—A mysterious group of Colombians subject to extradition and linked to the drug mafia today admitted they kidnapped 34-year-old Colombian politician and journalist Andres Pastrana.

The group, which calls itself the "extraditables," first appeared on 23 November 1987, when it threatened all Colombian politicians with death if well-known drug trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa was extradited.

"We will kill the political heads of the traditional parties with no hesitation." The group members said this in a note in which they also announced: "We prefer a tomb in Colombia to a jail in the United States."

The police arrested Ochoa near Palmira, in the southeastern province of Valle, while he was driving a luxury vehicle accompanied by a Honduran employee of the Honduran Embassy in Bogota.

Juan Carlos Pastrana, brother of the kidnapped Andres Pastrana, delivered a communique to AFP in which he maintains the Pastrana family has received "verbal" demands from a group of extraditables [Colombians].

Seven Killed in FARC-Army Clash in Antioquia

PA221836 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] A column of the (Barbula) Battalion has clashed with a column of the so-called FARC in San Rafael Municipality, Antioquia Department. Six guerrillas and one Army noncommissioned officer were killed in the fighting.

Rebel Actions Deter Investment in Cesar

PA241930 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 88

[Text] Guerrilla ambushes, kidnappings, and attacks on oil pipelines in the past few days have disrupted the people's peace and fostered a tense and alarming climate in Cesar Department. Five soldiers were killed in a FARC ambush, and 18 civilians have been murdered so far this year. Among the civilians was Martin Vazquez, Liberal councilman for Chimichagua, who was murdered by the ELN [Army of National Liberation]. During the past 3 months, 20 people have been kidnapped, including the mayor of Pelaya, 5 DAS [Administrative Department of Security] officials, and 14 cattle breeders. Of these, only seven have returned home.

ELN, EPL [Popular Liberation Army], FARC, and M-19 operations in Aguachica, Pailitas, El Copey, and Curumani municipalities—the leading centers of violence—have prompted abandonment of farms and a considerable reduction in investments in the countryside of that department where primary emphasis is placed on farming and cattle breeding.

[Begin unidentified farmer recording] We feel cornered and dare not invest a single peso in the countryside. This means that while Cesar generated jobs for 300,000 families during the 1960's and 1970's, it does not generate even a fourth of this number today. [end recording]

There is a single cry from Cesar residents demanding a more effective state presence to counteract the violence caused by subversives and common criminals.

The situation is also critical in Cauca Department. The peasants are hemmed in by several fronts of violence and death. Mario Arboleda reviews what is happening there:

[Begin recording] [Arboleda] Six FARC fronts, active after the truce failed in Cauca Department; five M-19 fronts supported by Ecuadoran and Peruvian guerrillas; 20 self-defense groups organized by the civilian population; and the Quintin Lame group, which protects the Indians, together occupy some 10,000 square km of the

Just in case he did not hear or in case his advisers did not take notice or did not inform him, we want to remind this scatterbrained diplomat from the country of drugs and orgies of some passages from the speech of our leader, President Alfredo Stroessner, on 16 January in Paraguari—a clear, precise, and irrefutable message to the pothole pathologist from the North. Our leader affirmed: We do not now nor will we ever allow meddling in affairs that are of the exclusive concern of those who represent a breed of man who does not accept masters or tutors. To govern, we do not inspire ourselves with foreign ideas.

People who, like the pothole-itis-affected ambassador, have many things to set straight and clarify at home should not be putting their noses in other people's business. Here we govern ourselves by the thoughts and desires of our people. The president also pointed out that just as we do not intend to act as umpires of what happens in other countries, we do not now, nor will we ever, tolerate anyone who wants to make himself umpire of what happens in Paraguay. The judge, the compass, and the guiding principle of our democracy are the people of Paraguay. Nothing can be clearer! Therefore, let the ambassador who suffers from pothole-itis take notice of this.

A stance like the one adopted by our leader, as he has always done defending the national sovereignty, is what prompts the people to vote for him without thinking twice. It is so because the people know that a goverment led by President Stroessner will not play into the hands of an arrogant ambassador from an arrogant country that wants to throw its weight around. If anyone wants to listen, he should listen. If anyone wants to understand, he should understand. But if anyone who should hear our words does not want to take heed, he is mistaken, because in one way or another, we, the Colorados, will take it upon ourselves to make him understand our words. If, in spite of this, this intolerable posture of standing as judge, master, or tutor of our people is insisted upon, let him who is affected with incurable galloping pothole-itis know that he will not remain in our midst.

Our leader has said no more to brazen foreigners who want to meddle in our affairs, no more to those who want to play dumb by trying to be umpires of our destiny. Paraguay is for Paraguayans and for nobody else. And Paraguayan problems will be solved by Paraguayans with Paraguayan formulas.

Argentina's Castrogiovanni Arrives in Asuncion

PY231422 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 23 Jan 88 p 7

[Excerpt] Oscar Castrogiovanni, "Castroge," Argentine reporter and ultra-right activist, arrived here yesterday with an official from the Paraguayan Embassy in Buenos Aires. Castrogiovanni warned President Alfonsin that "the people are going to wake up and give him what he deserves."

Upon arriving at our international airport he said: "I came to Paraguay because democracy does not exist in my country. It is a charade of democracy. That is why I am happy to be in a country where there is real democracy despite the stupid things my government says about it. [passage omitted]

Peru

Government Renegotiates Debt With USSR

PA181640 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Economy Minister Gustavo Saberbein has renegotiated Peru's pending debt with the USSR, which amounts to $1 billion. The debt was renegotiated at a 3-percent interest rate.

Saberbein explained that the amount of the debt has been rearranged so the country will make payments during 1988, 1989, and 1990 according to its ability to pay.

APRA Labor Union Joins National Strike

PA170700 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1938 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 14 Jan (DPA)—The Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CPT), with ties to the APRA now in power and with a leftist democratic ideology, has announced its participation in the national strike slated for 28 January. The strike was called by the Communist General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP) to protest the economic policy of President Alan Garcia's government.

The declaration of Julio Cruzado, secretary general of the CPT, the country's second largest labor union, has caused "a real earthquake" in official circles, political commentators said today.

During Garcia's 2 years in office, the CPT had rejected strikes called by the communist CGTP, Peru's most powerful labor organization, and kept its distance from the "red confederation," the commentators recall.

Cruzado has been accused of treason by the most radical sectors of the government.

Some recall that Cruzado was expelled from the APRA some time ago, but the leader said that his expulsion was never made effective.

The harshest epithets against the CPT secretary general came from Labor Minister Oreste Rodriguez. He has even said that Cruzado's decision does "not compromise APRA's labor policy."

department's mostly broken terrain and mountains. The peasants are in the middle, harassed by the guerrillas and the soldiers who comb the area searching for subversive contacts.

[Unidentified peasant] The guerrillas and the Army began fighting. Then what? They killed my wife and my three sons. What can I do? I am fed up. I have to go into the jungle, hammer in a few poles, and hide there for 5 days.

[Arboleda] The guerrillas claim the peasant population has been infiltrated, whereas the Army considers the peasants informers. Even when they take a neutral stand, they are the ones affected most in this western region.

[Peasant] We only want peace, because if there is war or something, we, the peasants, are hurt most.

[Arboleda] All have one thought: selling and getting out of here any way they can. The problem is no one wants to invest, and those who buy do so at ridiculously low prices. The situation is critical; the rehabilitation councils do not work, and the peasant marches are escalating. [end recording]

This afternoon, ELN guerrillas attacked the power substation in Mineros, El Valle municipality, Antioquia Department. The insurgents fired rifles and machine guns at the plant's transformers, leaving much of the municipality without power, and disabled two dredges there.

Paraguay

Editorial on U.S. Ambassador's 'Interference'

PY221621 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 21 Jan 88

["Voz del Coloradismo" editorial]

[Text] For a great, prosperous, and happy Paraguay; for peace, democracy, social justice, and freedom to permanently prevail among the glorious Paraguayan people; and to oppose subversive political preaching that seeks to divide the Paraguayan family, the goverment junta of the National Republican Association, Colorado Party, presents the Voice of Coloradoism.

The Paraguayan people know that by voting for President Stroessner in the upcoming elections on 14 February, they will be voting not only for peace but for development and progress. However, they know that they will be voting for the strengthening of something that for Paraguayans, good Paraguayans, is sacred and non-negotiable: the sovereignty and independence of our fatherland.

With the government of our leader, the black period during which, because of the country's bad administrators, some foreigners thought of Paraguay as a colony, as a dependent territory, as a province, or as a backwater country without personality or an autonomous territorial entity has ended. In other words, during the sad days of the traitorous Liberalism [Liberal Party] that sold out the country, we were not our own masters, Paraguayan had no say in Paraguay, and the little production that resulted from the small efforts was exchanged for personal or group advantages—never for the benefit of the people. Our economy, and even the sacred land of our heroes, was mortgaged, rented, or sold to foreigners.

Then, with the leadership of President Alfredo Stroessner and the Colorado government, the nation recovered its dignity, the citizens regained their free will, and the fatherland reasserted its independence. Today, Paraguay is truly free, sovereignly free, independently and democratically free. Consequently, attempts by and pretensions of those who want to treat us as slaves, lackeys, or dependents will be in vain. Those who continue in these attempts and with these pretensions do so because they have their minds full of potholes, which can never be filled because those potholes have been drilled by misinformation and incurably misinformed psychopaths.

The main cause of the pothole pathology of ambassadors who represent the most horrible center of drug trafficking, urban vice, criminality, venereal diseases, and AIDS can be found in their lack of mental acuity that keeps them from viewing Paraguay in a different image from that prior to August 1954. They continue to view Paraguayans as dumb and servile Indians, and they are as wrong as they can be! We have never been dumb or servile, with the exception of the Liberals who were dumb and servile to foreign regimes in the past. Of course, there is a huge difference between a Colorado and a Liberal, and, what's more, we do not believe any comparison can be established between them. The Liberals have been and continue to be pathetic beggars of colonialist and imperialist alms from their occasional masters. The Liberals are like women of the night who take up with the highest bidder. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, and we must admit that the analogy does not fit all Liberals. There are some Liberal citizens—some very good ones—who, as Paraguayans, bring honor to the fatherland. These good Liberals repudiate those who betrayed their party and its doctrine.

Unfortunately, the ambassador of hippies and drug traffickers, the ambassador affected by the pothole disease, the ambassador from the country of free and accepted homosexuality, the ambassador from a country where his countrymen die from exposure to the cold and even from hunger, continues to consider Paraguay as a colony, village, or who knows in what fecal picture he thinks of us in his clouded and sick mind. Since he is a pothole, he sees everything as a pothole and conceives of everything as a pothole, because, as we have said, he is affected by a pothole pathology. He is suffering from galloping pothole-itis.

Cruzado said, in turn, that the minister, rather than insulting him, should call the leaders of the two confederations to hold talks to try to solve the demands of the workers, who are bearing the consequences of the economic crisis.

Government Extends State of Emergency

PA172242 Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 17 Jan (AFP)—It was officially announced today that the Peruvian Government extended for another 60 days the state of emergency—with the suspension of constitutional guarantees—in 16 provinces and one district in four departments of the country's interior.

"Due to the fact that violence continues to prevail in those areas," the government decided to extend the state of emergency, read the decree published today in the official gazette EL PERUANO.

The measure that suspends individual rights provided by the Peruvian Constitution affects eight provinces in Ayacucho Department, stronghold of the "armed struggle." The provinces affected are Cangallo, Huamanga, Huanta, La Mar, Victor Fajardo, Huancasancos, Vilcashuaman, and Sucre.

The measure also affect six provinces in Huancavelica Department: Acobamba, Angares, Huancavelica, Tayacaja, Huaytara, and Churcampa; one province in Apurimac: Chincheros; one in Huanuco: Ambo; and the district of Monzon in Huamalies Province.

The state of emergency is maintained in 16 other provinces to counter the insurgency begun by the Maoist Shining Path in Ayacucho 7 years ago, which has taken a toll of more than 10,000 lives and caused considerable physical damage, the extent of which has yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, General Jose Valdivia, the chief of the military command in the Ayacucho area, has imposed drastic security measures on the region, admitting that "violence has flared up in recent days, which proves that peacemaking efforts will continue to be difficult."

In a meeting with newsmen who cover the area, Valdivia told them that they are banned from "entering the areas considered highly dangerous."

He also asked the newsmen to present their reports "in a careful manner to help clarify the events and not distort the facts by blowing unconfirmed reports out of proportion."

The existence of concentration camps where the Shining Path "keeps dozens of peasants prisoner and enforces harsh labor" was denounced by four farmers who fled from Lucmahuayco—a town in La Convencion Province, Cusco Department—the Interior Ministry reported last night.

The farmers, who fled along with 10 others, including 6 children, said that their friends were captured again by the Shining Path guerrillas. The official document added that the fugitives turned themselves in to authorities on 23 December. According to the farmers, the Shining Path forcibly took away approximately 500 people from various Ayacucho communities to various camps in the Oronccoy jungle. The ministry also said that police patrols have been sent to the area to rescue those farmers.

Shining Path Commando Kills Four in Ayacucho

PA241340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0606 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 18 Jan (AFP)—Four workers from a state bank, including two engineers, were killed this morning by a Maoist Shining Path commando in Cangallo Province, Ayacucho region, the Peruvian Civil Guard confirm today.

It has been reported that at dawn today, some subversive groups blew up three high-tension towers in other remotes zones in Ayacucho, leaving a large part of this Andean department and neighboring Huancavelica departments in the dark.

The people killed include Luis Cabrera Seminario and Rene Garcia Cardenas (both engineers), Jose Medina Tineo, and Eliseo Flores Seminario, all workers of the state Banco Agrario. Marieta Garcia Blasquez Romani, a bank secretary who was accompanying the group, was released by the subversives, the authorities reported.

According to the police, the bank workers were returning to Cangallo, 530 km southeast of Lima, after spending the weekend in Ayacucho, when they were intercepted by a heavily armed Shining Path column in (Caccapata).

The shocked survivor, who had to walk 1 hour to reach Cangallo, told authorities the Shining Path guerrillas, who were wearing ski masks, killed the four workers with machine guns.

Further on Actions

PA230202 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 23 Jan 88

[Text] Lima, 22 Jan (AFP)—Peruvian authorities reported in Lima today that six guerrillas, two peasants, and a governor were killed in violent actions in the country's interior in the past 48 hours, raising the total number of victims to 89 so far this year.

According to a communique of the political-military command of Southwestern National Security Region 3, headed by Colonel Victor Marquez, six rebels—four men and two women—were killed during an exchange of fire between an Army patrol and a Shining Path contingent in Sallave, Aymaraes Province, 750 km from Lima, on Wednesday.

The subversives were part of a column of 20 "seditious criminals" who have intermittently harassed the Tapairihua District communities.

In a cave near the scene of the action, authorities discovered a large amount of foodstuffs—sugar, rice, flour, soft drinks—clothing, boots, 20 homemade grenades, and 20 dynamite sticks, the document reported.

An unidentified governor was shot in the head and killed on Wednesday, presumably by Shining Path members, in Antiya, about 80 km from Abancay, capital of Apurimac Department. After descending from nearby hills, the guerrillas held a "people's trial" against the governor at the public plaza charging him of "collaborating with the government," police sources said.

The aggravation of subversive actions in several areas of the country's interior, particularly Apurimac, forced the government to extend the state of emergency in five Apurimac region provinces yesterday, raising to 27 the number of jurisdictions where this measure is in force.

According to unofficial sources, and reports by a correspondent of the Lima morning newspaper LA VOZ, about 60 peasants have been killed in an "indiscriminate massacre of peasants" during military operations in small Apurimac villages over the past 5 months.

The paper added: "Serious incidents have been occurring throughout the department over the past 5 months, particularly in Chalhuanca, Sanayca, Soraya, Cotaruse, and Caraybamba, among others."

In addition, the bodies of two murdered peasants, already in a state of advanced decomposition, having being partially devoured by birds of prey, were found yesterday near a ditch in Pucaccasa, Ayacucho de Ocros, travelers reported.

The victims, unidentified, are to be added to other crimes that occur frequently, presumably executed by the Shining Path, which operates in the region, local residents said.